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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 252

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19, 2013

www.saipantribune.com

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Guide dog Orlando jumps on to the tracks of a subway to save his owner. **► PAGE 13**

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DPW awards 6-month, \$372K contract for landfill operations

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works awarded an emergency contract worth some \$372,000 to Tang's Corp. to operate the

Marpi landfill for six months, even as DPW begins

work on a new request for proposal for a longer-term contract that addresses procurement issues raised in the last RFP.

» Govt works on new RFP for longer-term contract

For some 15 months now, DPW only entered into equipment rental agreement with two contractors for trash compacting, among other things, at the landfill,

mainly because of procurement protests and appeals.

This time, the six-month contract is for landfill operations, albeit only for six months until a longer-term contract

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COPS CENTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. DeLeon Guerrero and Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero pose for a group photo yesterday with bike patrol officers in front of an abandoned building in Susupe that DPS will renovate for its Community Oriented Policing Section Center. The Department of Public Lands officially conveyed the property to DPS in a ceremony yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

See story on Page 2

Hospital ends long waits at ER

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The sight of people waiting long hours to be treated at the Commonwealth Health Center have now become a rarity with the implementation of a new program that speeds up the accommodation of patients.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has started enforcing the PCAP program, or the Primary Care Access Point, to end the long wait times at the public hospital. Staffed by physician assistants, patients that come in undergo initial treatment or screening to assess their conditions and

are then referred for appropriate treatment.

Dr. Martin Rohringer, director of CHC's Emergency Services, said the Emergency Room has always struggled to provide care for a large numbers of pa-

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30-year sentence for man who sexually abused child

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho handed down yesterday the maximum sentence of 30 years in prison against Donald Ayuyu Hocog, a 45-year-old man who sexually abused a 14-year-old girl starting when she was just 6.

Camacho said that Hocog shall serve the 30-year sentence without the possibility of parole.

Hocog's request to spend Christmas with his children was denied, with Camacho saying the defendant is now a convicted sex offender.

Camacho noted that Hocog is a repeat offender as he has had several

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For inquiries please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171

Local

DPL turns over an abandoned site to DPS for COPS Center



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero signs the papers yesterday afternoon for the conveyance to DPS of a public land in Susupe where an abandoned building will be renovated for the Community Oriented Policing Section Center for Susupe and Chalan Kanoa. Also in the photo witnessing the signing ceremony are Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete Tenorio, standing, Gov. Eloy Inos, and Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands turned over to the Department of Public Safety yesterday an abandoned building in Susupe that will be renovated into a new police substation.

The building is located next to a basketball court near the Mobil Gas Station in Susupe and used to house a Head Start center and community hall.

DPS will renovate the building for its Community Oriented Policing Section Center for Chalan Kanoa and Susupe.

In his remarks, DPL Secretary Pete Tenorio said the building has been abandoned for many years so conveying it to DPS will benefit the public.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos commended DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero and DPS staff for coming up with a "worthwhile project" that partners the

department, the community, and the private sector.

In the long run, he said, the project will make police officers' jobs easier as they will be going down to the community level.

Deleon Guerrero said that bike patrol officers and investigators will be assigned at the COPS Center, which will operate round the clock. The idea, he said, is to shorten the time cases remain pending in the department.

Internet and WiFi will also be installed so that children can come in, he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the government will not spend for the renovation work as many private companies have responded to their solicitation letters by donating funds.

He cited Bridge Capital, which donated \$5,000 to the bike patrol program, and cash donations of Bank of Saipan

and other companies.

He said DPS has seen a steep drop in the number of criminal activities in Susupe and Chalan Kanoa since they assigned bike patrol officers in these areas.

Deleon Guerrero said the CNMI Office of Homeland Security has also donated two more Gator utility vehicles on top of one Gator that it previously handed to DPS.

He said Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero helped DPS prepare the ceremony while Reps. John Paul Sablan and Ralph Demapan assisted DPS with the renovation of the basketball court in front of the COPS Center.

Marvin K. Seman, CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant, said the two Gators, each worth \$16,000, are heavy duty, can operate in rugged terrain, and are fully enclosed so officers are protected even during bad weather.

Ex-DJ gets 2-year term for burning car

Former disc jockey Aziz Peter Mettao was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison for setting fire to a Power 99 Studio vehicle.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said the two-year prison term shall run concurrently with Mettao's two-year prison sentence in federal court for the same incident.

The judge said the sentence shall be tentative unless Mettao starts serving his prison time in federal prison before the sentencing hearing in Superior Court on Jan. 28, 2014.

Wiseman handed down the tentative sentence because he

wants to make sure that Mettao will serve the prison term concurrent or within his two-year prison sentence in federal court.

Mettao, 28, was given credit for 420 days for time served. After his release from prison, he will be placed on probation for two years. He was ordered to pay a \$150 fine and \$100 court assessment fee.

Mettao pleaded guilty yesterday to reckless burning as part of a plea deal. Assistant public defender Eden Schwartz served as his counsel, while assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty represented the CNMI government.

Mettao set fire to his former employer's 2010 Hyundai Tucson on Sept. 10, 2012 on Saipan, destroying the vehicle in the process.

The federal court sentenced him to two years in prison on Dec. 9. After completing his sentence, Mettao will be placed on three years of supervised release.

In that case, Mettao and his counsel signed a plea deal with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to destruction of a motor vehicle, a charge that has no mandatory minimum period of imprisonment. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Energy investor paid for 4 lawmakers' China trip

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Three of the four lawmakers who accepted a renewable energy investor's invitation separately confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday and yesterday that Blue Ocean Energy paid for their

recent trip to Guangzhou, with a layover in Hong Kong to secure Chinese visas.

House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. John

Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan) said that Blue Ocean Energy paid for their trip and accommodations.

The fourth lawmaker in the trip is Senate PUTC Committee chair Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan).

The House and Senate PUTC panels plan a joint press confer-

ence to discuss their trip's details and what they have learned about liquefied natural gas, among other things.

In May, Blue Ocean Energy officials visited Saipan and presented before lawmakers their plans to invest in a \$100-million, 50-megawatt liquefied natural gas plant project on Saipan.

"Yes, Blue Ocean paid for our trip. We got to visit their plant and learned more about LNG. It's an educational trip," Deleon Guerrero said in an interview at his office. "But there's no strings attached."

He said this is not unethical and the practice of having investors pay for government officials' trips is not new, so long as the government officials do not promise or guarantee the investor anything in return.

Deleon Guerrero said the

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be the one to issue a request for proposal for renewable energy, and lawmakers won't have any part in the selection or any decision-making process.

Sablan, in a phone interview yesterday, said prior to accepting the invitation to go to China, the lawmakers consulted with their counsels.

"We did our job, and we consulted with our counsel. We made sure that it's legal and ethical to make the trip. We will have no conflict because the RFP will be CUC's responsibility. They are the ones to make the decision, not lawmakers. At the end of the day, it's the RFP that will talk," Sablan said.

The freshman lawmaker said he's glad to be part of the trip, considering that the CNMI has high utility rates and it needs to

know more and move fast in tapping renewable energy sources.

"It's a very informative trip," he said.

Vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) said that Blue Ocean Energy will be participating in a request for proposals that CUC or the administration would later issue. He said lawmakers will not be involved in the selection process after the RFP closes.

Deleon Guerrero said they had a layover in Hong Kong on their way to Guangzhou. Sablan said the Hong Kong segment of their trip was to wait for their China visas. It was earlier reported that the end-destination was Hong Kong.

Back in May, Blue Ocean Energy said their plan is to build an LNG power plant that they said will provide electricity at least 20 percent cheaper than what CUC currently charges per kilowatt hour.

Salvation Army appeals for more toys

The Salvation Army is appealing to the community to donate more toys after a longer-than-expected list of recipients and slower-than-usual toy contributions conspired to make the charitable organization fail to meet its target toy donations this year.

"We're very concerned about the toy drive. The list of kids that we got this year has more than tripled from last year so the need is great. The toys and contributions coming in are also a little bit slower than most years. The Rotary Club of Saipan has given us a lot of support and we have some individual businesses in the community that are helping out," said Salvation Army ministry leader Wayne Gillespie.

To this end, he is encouraging businesses, governmental agencies, and schools to consider holding toy drives.

"For the last three days we have been doing the logistical work of wrapping the gifts and at this point we don't even have

yet a toy for each kid. We target at least two toys and we hope to meet that goal this year but at this point it's just not happening."

Gillespie said the Salvation Army has more than 80 recipients from the Division of Youth Services. As of now, he doesn't have a running total of the toys they've received so far.

Apart from toy donations, the local chapter of the Salvation Army is also accepting cash donations.

"We've got a few toys trickling in and we got some cash donations from the Rotary Club of Saipan, which is a tremendous help. Actually cash donations and monetary donations help us out because every year you find yourself short of toys for certain age ranges. This year we're critically short of toys for older kids. When someone makes a monetary donation it enables us to purchase the gifts to fill the gap."

For more information and to donate toys and cash donations

to the Salvation Army, call Gillespie at 483-0885. "We want to get those donations. Please give us a call. Our deadline is Friday."

In related news, Gillespie said the Salvation Army added an additional day to its soup kitchen this December.

"We've been concerned with kids out of school on Christmas break and that they may be missing meals. What we've done is we partnered with Saipan Community Church and they've been coming out and running the soup kitchen each Wednesday for the month of December."

Apart from the Wednesday schedule for December, the Salvation Army's soup kitchen is open three days a week—Fridays and Saturdays from 11am to 1pm and Sunday afternoons from 1:30pm.

"If you're a low-income family and you find yourself short on cash and food, please come on out and eat," said Gillespie. (Mark Rabago)

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2 bills seeks to amend e-gaming law over \$2.5K fee

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) prefiled two separate bills amending the newly signed electronic gaming law over the \$2,500 license fee per machine at hotels on Saipan. Sablan said he will formally introduce his House Bill 18-158 in today's session, while Yumul said he will either withdraw or introduce a revised bill on Friday.

This comes at a time when hotels such as Mariana Resort are already preparing their facility for the operation of electronic gaming machines.

Sablan prefiled yesterday his

HB 18-158, excluding poker machines from the \$2,500 license fee imposed under Public Law 18-30 or the electronic gaming law.

Moreover, HB 18-158 is the "correct" version of HB 18-57 that Sablan prefiled on Tuesday.

The previous bill inadvertently changed the "15 percent of net gaming proceeds" under the law to only "10 percent."

Sablan said it was not his intention to reduce the net gaming proceeds, so he prefiled HB 18-158 a day later with the 15 percent net gaming proceeds intact.

"...the intent of this Act is to amend Public Law 18-30 by excluding poker machines from the [\$2,500] fee under Public Law No. 18-30 so that fees col-

lected solely on poker machines are not hampered. Furthermore, the intent of this Act is to clarify that the intent of House Bill 18-51, HD4, SS1, CCD1 was not to decrease the existing fees for poker machines within the [CNMI] but rather to allow electronic gaming in qualified establishments within the Commonwealth," the bill says.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed on Dec. 13 PL 18-30 or the Tourism Entertainment and Destination Enhancement Act of 2013, requiring a \$2,500 license fee per electronic gaming machine or 15 percent of net gaming proceeds, "whichever is greater."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the administration has not received

copies of the amendment bills.

"In his approval message, Governor Inos sought the assistance of the House Ways and Means Committee to exclude poker machines from the \$2,500 license fee as it should remain equal to the higher license fee for poker machines not in hotels," Demapan added.

Yumul, meanwhile, said at the time of his prefiling of SB 18-43, he wasn't aware that Sablan had also prefiled an amendment bill.

He said yesterday that he has two options: Either to withdraw the bill from introduction during Friday's Senate session on Rota, or revise the bill to also incorporate other senators' concerns.

Yumul's bill excludes poker

machines from the list of electronic gaming machines in hotels subject to a reduced license fee of \$2,500 under PL 18-30.

He said PL 18-30 inadvertently included poker machines on the list of electronic gaming at hotels that are subject to a \$2,500 license fee per machine.

Yumul said his bill intends to maintain the license fee for existing poker machines on Saipan.

But he said concerns or worries about investors relocating existing poker machines to hotels could also be moot because PL 18-30 requires that all electronic table games must comply with the latest international technical standards set by Global Gaming Laboratories International LLC or SIQ Gaming Laboratories.

PL 18-30 amends the definition of gambling device "to exclude electronic gaming."

As a revenue-generating law, it aims to assist the CNMI

in meeting its obligations to the Settlement Fund and the NMI Retirement Fund.

The new law allows electronic gaming machines only in hotels with at least 100 rooms or, if they have fewer than 100 rooms, should be attached to a golf course.

Under the bill, 60 percent of the fees collected each year will be used to restore the 25-percent cut in retirees' pension; 15 percent to pay the interest owed to defined benefit plan members who ended their membership; 15 percent to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for the senatorial district's programs; 5 percent for Rota; and 5 percent for Tinian.

Casino gambling is legal only on Tinian and Rota. Saipan voters rejected the proposal twice, and a House casino bill was rejected thrice by the Senate in one form or another.

Admin eyes extending Aetna contract for 30 days

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

With less than two weeks before the Dec. 31 end of Aetna's contract with the government for health insurance and with still no deal reached with either of two other vendors, the Inos administration is weighing at least a 30-day contract extension with Aetna, among other things.

"The government is hoping that final resolution can be reached soon. Yes, an extension for at least 30 days is one contingency option at this point," press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

Aetna did not bid on the latest

request for proposals for government health insurance coverage; only StayWell and Pacifica Insurance did.

Health insurance premiums for government employees and retirees could go up by 30 percent to 45 percent as early as Jan. 1, 2014, unless the government finds innovative ways to keep the costs low.

One estimate for healthcare benefits, for example, would increase premiums by 43 percent, which would increase total annual costs from approximately \$18 million to \$25 million. Implementation of some provisions of the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare on health insur-

ance premiums in the CNMI is also a source of concern for the government.

Half of the annual cost is paid by the employer/government and the remaining \$9 million is by government employees and retirees. Of the \$9 million that the government pays, about \$7 million is for retirees and some \$2 million is for active employees.

A 30 percent to 45 percent hike in insurance premium is just one of the many challenges that the government faces, besides its financial obligations to the Settlement Fund and the Retirement Fund.

Demapan said the governor

has not gone into specifics of any austerity measures being considered at this time. So there is no telling whether it would be another eight-hour or 16-hour work cuts per pay period, unpaid holidays or something else.

"He has cautioned department heads to manage their finances conservatively in the event that projected revenues come up short," the press secretary added.

The House and Senate also continue to push for revenue-generating bills, including the recently signed electronic gaming and video lottery measures.

SENTENCE

From Page 1

contacts with the justice system.

The judge said that one of the charges in which the defendant is convicted of is sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, a serious and heinous crime.

Camacho said the victim in this case is a young child.

The CNMI Legislature, he said, has repeatedly expressed its

intent to impose a harsh penalty on sexual abusers of children.

Camacho said he disagrees with Hocog's counsel, assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, that the court does not consider other factors in imposing maximum sentences.

Meyer recommended a 10-year prison term. He argued, among other things, that if everybody gets maximum prison terms, there can be no exceptional case.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda recommended a sentence of 36 years in prison. She said the crimes committed are very egregious.

"The victim is a child. She lost her childhood," Cepeda said.

A jury reached a unanimous guilty verdict against Hocog on one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Camacho, who decided on the misdemeanor charges, also found Hocog guilty of one

count of assault and battery and another count.

Camacho said he heard the testimony of the girl and found her credible.

Police said that on March 13, 2013, a Division of Youth Services representative interviewed the then-13-year-old girl who confessed that Hocog began sexually abusing her when she was 6. She claimed that she was sexually abused five times and that the last incident happened in 2011.

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

tients who do not have a regular doctor. As is common throughout the U.S., he said patients often use the emergency room as a convenient facility for minor problems such as coughs, colds, and for long-term illnesses such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or gout.

That often makes CHC's emergency room the most crowded unit at the hospital, both days and nights.

Rohringer pointed out, however, that the emergency room is primarily designed to treat trauma and emergencies, not minor complaints or chronic illnesses.

"When the ER takes the place of the family doctor, patient care can be slowed down for every-

one," he added.

Dr. Paul Gahlinger, who had been designated director of the PCAP program, said that PCAP is the ER's new patient care program and is designed to speed access while providing more complete care to patients. Under the new program, PCAP is staffed by physician assistants under the supervision of the emergency physician.

"When a patient arrives at the ER, a triage nurse determines whether the patient needs to be seen in the ER or in the PCAP. If directed to PCAP, a patient can often be seen immediately, with little or no wait times. The care is more relaxed, so general health and lifestyle issues are addressed," according to Gahlinger.

That allows physician assistants to take the time to address

high blood pressure, smoking, obesity and other general health issues, he added.

After being seen at PCAP, most patients are sent for follow-up care to the Family Care Clinic, although many still return to PCAP.

According to Gahlinger, the PCAP program has been a great success since its start at the beginning of November. Patients, he said, are delighted with the quick access and attention to all their complaints.

Meanwhile, patients who actually need emergency care face much shorter waits at the hospital's ER.

It was disclosed that the lengthy emergency room waits are the single greatest complaint at CHC and cause of dissatisfaction among patients. Before PCAP was im-

plemented, it was not unusual for patients to have to wait up to two hours or more.

"In fact, such waiting times are actually the norm in most of the U.S. For example, wait times average 2.3 hours in Iowa and a miserable 5 hours in Arizona. With the PCAP program, wait times have decreased to as little as minutes, depending on the time of day," the doctor said.

Meanwhile, he said, "care is much improved for island residents who do not have the benefit of a regular doctor."

DPW

From Page 1

is awarded. DPW is careful not to receive any citation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Marpi landfill since it started having equipment rental agreements instead of landfill operations contract.

DPW Secretary Martin Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the six-month contract with Tangs Corp. is from Dec. 5, 2013, to June 2014.

"We are hoping that before the end of the third month, we would be able to issue the new RFP which is for a long-term contract," Sablan said.

He said the Division of Procurement and Supply recommended a new RFP.

"In the new RFP, we will specify that price is an evaluation factor," he said, referring to procurement issues raised by a protesting bidder.

The contract is for approximately \$62,000 a month or some \$372,000 for six months. This amount is inclusive of other expenses.

In the new RFP, the contract could be for two years, with the option to renew for another year.

DPW awarded the emergency contract with Tangs Corp. after the Office of the Public Auditor "modified" its recommendation, albeit upholding a procurement appeal decision.

After the OPA decision, Sablan said DPW is in a position to decide which action to take to get the long-delayed project moving, in consultation with the Procurement and Supply Division.

He said the OPA decision paved the way for a landfill operations contract using an "emergency" justification such as endangerment of Saipan residents' health and safety.

Back in July, OPA granted SARS or Success International Corp's procurement appeal and directed DPW to cancel the "flawed" RFP.

However, OPA modified its prior order on Oct. 25 but reaffirmed its findings that DPW's RFP on the Marpi landfill operations was "flawed" because price or cost to the government was not included in the RFP listing of evaluation factors.

OPA said it "will not direct the method DPW must use pursuant to the CNMI Procurement Regulations to procure the services at issue."

"OPA recognizes that the agency has important factors to consider, including the 'health and safety of Saipan's residents,' which places the CNMI in a 'dangerous position' with regulatory agencies," said OPA legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher in an Oct. 25 decision concurred by Public Auditor Michael Pai.

The OPA decision says DPW "is in the best position to consider what type of procurement process is most lawfully under the CNMI Procurement Regulations, in conjunction with P&S, to engage a contractor for Marpi landfill operations."

After issuing an RFP and evaluating the proposals received, DPW had proposed to award the contract to Tangs Corp.

But SARS/Success International protested this with Procurement and Supply.

Later, SARS/Success International appealed Procurement and Supply's decision to OPA.

Procurement, in rejecting SARS' earlier protest, said that certain personnel of Tangs Corp. have been involved in the construction and operation of the Marpi landfill since its inception in 2002, whereas SARS "had no experience in operating a landfill until it obtained the contract for the temporary equipment rental."

OAG opposes Johnson's lawyers' attorneys' fees, costs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government, through the Office of the Attorney General, has strongly opposed the attorneys' fees and costs filed by different lawyers for retiree Betty Johnson, describing them as "excessive, outrageous, and contained irregularities."

Except for the fees and costs filed by Johnson's Honolulu-based counsel Bronster Hoshibata law firm and local counsel Stephen Woodruff, the OAG asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny the requests of Johnson's lawyers. The OAG, however, still has issues with some of Bronster Hoshibata and Woodruff's bills.

In his first petition, attorney Bruce Jorgensen is demanding \$18.6 million, \$29 million or \$38.9 million; Bronster Hoshibata is seeking \$17.5 million; attorney Timothy Lord is asking for either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million; and Woodruff is requesting first for \$1.01 million and now \$2.9 million.

In the CNMI government's separate oppositions, assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan asked the court to deny any attorney's fees for Lord, saying the latter does not qualify as Johnson's class counsel, to be paid under the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund.

Sablan said that Lord did not provide a beneficial result to the class that would justify payment under the common fund doctrine.

"If the court determines that an award under the common fund doctrine is warranted, the

court should employ the lodestar approach," she said.

After the necessary reductions are imposed, Sablan said the lodestar amount without a multiplier will provide Lord with a reasonable fee.

Lodestar refers to "reasonable" hours multiplied by a "reasonable" rate.

The government lawyer pointed out that the settlement agreement defines "class counsel" and it does not include Lord as part of that definition.

Sablan noted, among other things, that Lord bills excessive hours just for reviewing basic documents such as summonses.

As for Jorgensen's petition, assistant attorney general Charles Brasington asked the court to deny the petition entirely, or at the very least cut the number of Jorgensen's compensable hours by 90 percent.

After reviewing Jorgensen's submissions, the government feels that most of its prior objections and the court's concerns have gone completely unaddressed, and the few objections that were addressed have been replaced by new irregularities, Brasington said. He said the irregularities and shortcomings of Jorgensen's petition continue to be "pervasive and egregious."

The government's most serious objection to Jorgensen's filings, Brasington said, is that he appears to have shifted hours to different dates to make the billings appear more reasonable without reducing the total number of hours being claimed.

This practice, he noted, is extremely troublesome, and calls the veracity of Jor-

gensen's entire report into question.

Brasington said that Jorgensen also inappropriately attempts to collect hours billed by Lord.

He said the court should at the very least reduce any award to Jorgensen by 599.9 hours or \$190,382.50 because the latter is not entitled to hours expended by another attorney, especially another attorney that is independently seeking an award of attorney's fees for the same work.

Brasington said the court should reduce any award to Jorgensen by at least 90 percent because the lawyer has failed to clarify his block billing of hours.

On Woodruff's petition, as-

sistant attorney general Sablan asked the court to reduce Woodruff's lodestar hours to 139.7 hours and reduce his hourly rate to one that is "commensurate with his skill and reputation." She said a multiplier should not be applied.

"Mr. Woodruff, in particular, played a minimal role in the litigation and a multiplier is clearly not warranted," she said.

As reflected in his billing details, Sablan said, Woodruff primarily reviewed documents, corresponded with co-counsel, and attended court proceedings.

Sablan said Woodruff's requests for compensation of \$2,956,096 is obviously unreasonable. "The reasonable fee is the lodestar amount:

his reasonable hours (139.7) multiplied by a reasonable rate that reflects his skill, experience, and disbarred status," she added.

Sablan said that Woodruff failed to justify his request of 300 hours at an hourly rate of \$225, and his lodestar should be adjusted to reflect these deficiencies.

On Bronster Hoshibata law firm's petition, Sablan said a request for reimbursement of first-class airfare and luxury hotel accommodations is unreasonable.

Sablan pointed out that it was not necessary for the lawyer to travel to Guam before coming to Saipan as the proceedings are on Saipan. Thus, she said, the expenses in Guam

totaling \$793.90 should be deducted from Bronster's costs.

Sablan also noted that Bronster's hotel and meals in the amount of \$890.15 on Sept. 30, 2013, is excessive as Fiesta Resort is a beachside hotel with nightly rates of \$150 for a standard room.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood did not rule on Johnson counsel's petition for attorneys' fees and costs during the final fairness hearing. Instead, she directed the counsels and the CNMI government to talk about the issue before Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris, who conducted the settlement discussions in Johnson's class action.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **December 23**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **December 23**.

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LAST MINUTE

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December 19-24, 2013

\$59*

\$79*

\$229*

\$379*

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Justices deny ex-CUC board chair's bid to suspend prison sentence pending his appeal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has denied former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Guerrero's motion seeking to suspend the execution of his six-year prison sentence pending his appeal of his conviction on 11 charges related to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor.

In denying the motion, the high court justices ruled that Guerrero has not raised any substantial question of law or fact that will likely reverse his conviction or warrant a new trial.

The justices, however, remanded to the Superior Court to determine if an Attorney General Investigative Unit report

about Guerrero's sexual abuse charges exists.

"If that reports exists, and contains Brady material different from discovery already provided to Guerrero from the Commonwealth, we may reconsider Guerrero's motion based on the supplemental record," according the high court order signed by Chief Justice Alexander C. Castro, Associate Justice John A. Manglona, and Justice Pro Tem Timothy H. Bellas.

Brady material refers to a piece of evidence known to the prosecution that is important for establishing the innocence or reducing the punishment of a defendant.

The justices also pointed out that because the trial court would have found Guerrero

guilty regardless of the expert testimony, they conclude that Guerrero has not supplied sufficient evidence to show the expert-witness issue would likely result in reversal or a new trial.

Last July, a Superior Court jury acquitted the 63-year-old Guerrero of two counts of a sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, but Associate Judge David A. Wiseman found him guilty of 11 charges: three counts of assault and battery, five counts of disturbing the peace, two counts of indecent exposure in the second degree, and sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree. Wiseman sentenced the former CUC board chair to six years in prison, without the possibility of parole.

Guerrero, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, filed an emergency motion with the high court seeking a stay of his sentence pending appeal.

Before trial, Guerrero had asked for discovery material from the prosecution, including an Attorney General Investigative Unit report made around the time of Guerrero's arrest that potentially contained statements from the victim that Guerrero believes will prove his innocence.

When the government did not provide the AGIU report or additional discovery, Guerrero filed a motion to compel, arguing the small amount of materials the government produced in the course of the case could not have met the prosecution's bur-

den to turn over evidence.

Wiseman denied Guerrero's motion to compel, and declined to review the disputed evidence because "the government had assured the court that all exculpatory material had been produced."

In the high court's order on Tuesday, the justices said that in determining whether Guerrero's claims merit a stay, Rule 9 of the NMI Supreme Court Rules requires the defendant to establish he "will not flee or pose a danger to any other person or to the community," "the appeal is not for the purpose of delay," and the appeal "raises a substantial question of law or fact likely to result in reversal or in an order for a new trial."

The justices said in Brady's case, the U.S. Supreme Court held "suppression by the prosecution of evidence favorable to an accused upon request violates due process where the evidence is material either to guilt

or to punishment, irrespective of the good faith or bad faith of the prosecution."

The justices said because in camera review is mandatory under these circumstances, the trial court should have reviewed the disputed AGIU report in camera.

At this early juncture in the appeal, however, the justices said they cannot say the oversight violated Brady, and would, therefore, require a new trial, for three reasons.

First, the justices said, they do not know whether the AGIU report contained any Brady material.

Second, the justices said, Guerrero received discovery documents created shortly after his arrest containing the victim's statements. The justices said the document may have provided all of the victim's statements, and, as a result, made Guerrero's request for the AGIU report and other material moot.

Third, the justices said, the oversight may still be remedied through the trial court conducting an in camera review of the AGIU report.

"Under these narrow circumstances, a Brady violation has yet to ripen because the conviction is based solely on bench counts, the defendant raised the alleged violation before this court shortly after sentencing, and the trial court may review the disputed evidence in camera and then reconsider its guilty finding in light of that review," the justices said.

Guerrero was ordered to start serving his sentence on Dec. 1, 2013, at the Department of Corrections.

According to the court's commitment order, Guerrero began sexually molesting the now 17-year-old girl in 2010 when she was in the 9th grade and continued doing so up to May 2012 on five different occasions.



BANK OF GUAM DONATES

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, third from right, receives a check from Bank of Guam vice president & CNMI regional manager Marcie Tomokane, fourth from right, and staff, Tuesday, Dec. 18, at the BoG branch office in Garapan. The funds donated from BoG will go toward supporting the Red Cross humanitarian relief effort in the Philippines from Typhoon Haiyan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Friday, December 27th, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of November 21st, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings

1. **Rezoning Application #2013-1045.** Saipan Surfrider LLC is requesting to rezone lots 012 H 20; 008 H 32; and 008 H 29 from "Village Commercial" to "Tourist Resort" for hotel and commercial space development. These areas are located north of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel and east of Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa.
2. **Amendment to Conditional Use Permit #2011-6433.** Tasi Homes Development Co., LLC is requesting to amend its approved site development plan to reflect interior re-designing of floor plans, re-structuring of parking stalls, and closure of one entrance/exit driveway fronting Beach Road. This area is located next to the Sugar Dock and northwest of Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. Deleon Guerrero, 18th CNMI Legislature

E. New Business

1. Election of 2014 Zoning Board Officers
2. Office operations report
3. Discussion on proposed Adult Business Park/ Adult Business Overlay zoning districts

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 14-COTA/FTA-041**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 13, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) FARE CARD SYSTEM UNITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER, DECEMBER 19, 2013 AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR, NMI RETIREMENT FUND BUILDING, ISA DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 14-DPW/BSC-033**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: January 08, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUILDING SAFETY CODE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 14-OPM-026**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: December 31, 2013
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ISIDRO K. SEMAN
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 14-OPM-027**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: December 31, 2013
TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ISIDRO K. SEMAN
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

FHB employees in Guam, CNMI give \$19.9K to charities

HAGATNA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank employees in Guam and the CNMI pledged \$19,941 for local charities during the bank’s recent Kokua Mai employee giving campaign, according to an announcement yesterday by Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, se-

nior vice president, Guam and CNMI region manager. “Since its 2007 inception, our Kokua Mai employee giving campaign has raised over \$130,000 for charities on Guam and CNMI,” said Dacanay. “We have been able to achieve close to a 100 percent

employee participation rate each year because our employees care deeply about their communities and are very generous with their time and talents to support nonprofits.” “The Ayuda Foundation would like to thank the employees of First Hawaiian Bank and

the Kokua Mai Campaign for their donation,” said Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Ayuda Foundation executive director. “The money was used to help fund our operations for Island Girl Power, an afterschool program for girls 7-14. We rely on fundraising efforts, grants, and corporate support so that we can keep our program activities free since so many of our girls come from financially strapped families. During this past year

we underwent a renovation at our clubhouse and added two new units at our Dededo location along YsengSong road. We also added another location for Island Girl Power in Malesso. Thank you again for helping us to help our young girls to navigate healthy lifestyles.” First Hawaiian Bank administers the annual fundraising campaign to ensure that 100 percent of employee donations go directly to local charities.

The online giving program is completely run by employees. This year’s four-week campaign ran from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31 with employees conducting department fundraisers throughout to benefit 36 charities in Hawaii, Guam and the CNMI.

First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) with assets of \$16.7 billion was founded in Hawaii in 1858 and is the leading bank in Guam with the largest share of loans and deposits in the region. The bank operates 58 branches in Hawaii, three in Guam and two on Saipan. *(FHB)*

Guam’s returning vets to receive financial aid

Guam officials recently received news from the federal labor department that returning Guam National Guard members will receive financial assistance as they transition back into civilian life, if they are unemployed.

The good news—from U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration—came yesterday that more than 200 Guam Guard members and reservist will be able to participate in the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers Program as they out-process at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Local Department

of Labor officials will have to work on the logistics and details of the program.

While it is a temporary fix to address the unemployment status of nearly half of the 600 returning veterans, it is something immediate to help veterans and their families, and to acknowledge their service and sacrifice, said Guam Sen. Aline A. Yamashita, PhD, who introduced a resolution two months ago to start deliberations on Guam’s participation in the unemployment compensation program. Yamashita thanks all the federal counterparts who have worked and

who continue to work to help Guam’s soldiers and airmen.

“What a wonderful Christmas gift,” said Yamashita. “We wish each unemployed soldier and airman the best as they find employment or as they enter training programs to prepare for employment opportunities.”

Yamashita also commends local DOL director Manny Cruz for his persistence and Greg Massey, also of Guam DOL, for helping us understand processes. She also thanks LTC R. Crisostomo, Guam National Guard, for his work in helping soldiers reintegrate into home life on the island. *(PR)*

Public warned of high surf until Saturday

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management issued a high surf advisory yesterday, warning the public of hazardous surf in the next few days. The high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm Saturday.

“A deep low pressure system is moving eastward across the north Pacific with large

long-period waves being produced from the Marianas to the dateline. The surf will then gradually subsides but remain hazardous until Saturday,” the advisory states.

Hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet is expected to persist along north facing reefs of the Marianas until at least Thursday. Surf

should gradually subside to below hazardous levels during the weekend.

The agency warns the public and inexperienced mariners to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Navy removes ordnance found at Guam mayor’s office

BARRIGADA, Guam—Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Marianas responded to a call of an ordnance found at the Barrigada Mayor’s Office yesterday afternoon.

The World War II, five-inch projectile was deemed safe by Navy explosive ordnance disposal technicians before transporting it to Naval Magazine for proper disposal.

“We are very fortunate to have the Navy here to help take care of our village and all the ordnance we find,” said Barrigada Vice Mayor Jessie Bautista. “We are overwhelmed and grateful to have them here in our community.”

The detachment has responded to 66 calls and conducted seven render-safe procedures in Guam during the current

calendar year. Navy personnel also provide support in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Marshall Islands.

“It’s the most active shore detachment in the Navy and it’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said Chief Petty Officer Ryan Gilfillan, a Navy explosive ordnance disposal technician with the detachment. “We love what we do. It’s dangerous, but it is very rewarding because we know we are making the island and the Marianas a safer place.”

Island residents are strongly advised to call 911 in the event they come across ordnance or what may look like ordnance. Do not touch or handle the projectiles.

“These things are danger-

ous,” Gilfillan said. ‘It’s not something to have in your office, in your home. It’s still live munitions that can definitely get you and others around you hurt or killed.’”

The mission of EODMU-5 Detachment Marianas is to render safe all types of ordnance, conventional and unconventional, improvised, chemical, biological and nuclear to include improvised explosive devices and weapons of mass destruction. They perform land and underwater location, identification, render safe, and recovery or disposal of foreign and domestic ordnance. They conduct demolition of hazardous munitions, pyrotechnics, and retrograde explosives using detonation and burning techniques. *(PR)*

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

-v-

MANUEL CH. SANTOS and ANA RITA SANTOS, aka ANA RITA PALACIOS CABRERA,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 8, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 637, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 867 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 18, dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4286, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.
DATED, this 27th day of November, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

FOR SALE

Wash and Wear Laundry

Located in Chalan Kanoa

\$15,000 O.B.O.


If interested Call

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"Dennis Pacheco is no longer connected with Philpan International Corp. dba Marianas Ice & Water. The company will not honor any liability committed by this person through misrepresentation and unauthorized use of the company's name"



Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. (Mobil) is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation – the world's largest publicly traded integrated petroleum and natural gas company which operates facilities and markets products globally and explores for oil and natural gas on six continents. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

TERMINAL OPERATOR, SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Job Description:

Perform day to day activities to safely operate a petroleum distribution facility. Maintaining safety, health, environmental and security standards pursuant to local and federal regulations and Mobil policies, procedures and guidelines while performing operations of marine tanker receiving, bunkering, tank truck loading, pipeline transfer, product quality testing, handling and storage of bulk and packaged petroleum products delivering premier product quality and customer service.

Location:

• Saipan Terminal, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands
• Tinian Bulk Plant, San Jose, Northern Mariana Islands

Primary Job Functions:

• Execute and comply with Mobil's operational procedures and systems, policies, guidelines, using terminal manuals & procedures, loss prevention tools, corporate and industry standards.
• Conduct routine facility inspections. Maintain housekeeping, conduct maintenance and repairs to ensure safe operating conditions. Administratively record and report conditions using Mobil's processes and systems. Apply basic computer programs such as Microsoft Word & Microsoft Excel
• Perform safe marine terminal operations: shore to ship and ship to shore transfers of bulk petroleum products; tank truck loading, pipeline transfers and product quality testing.
• Adhere to programs and take a dynamic and proactive approach to ensure the safety, health, environment and security of its employees, customers and the public.
• Administratively prepare & submit various regulatory agency & corporate reports, associated with the handling, storage and product movement of petroleum distribution terminal.
• Perform Oil loss monitoring duties.
• Interface with third party contractors, local and federal government agencies, internal and external customers, and Mobil global network system.
• Conduct simple math calculations and conversions of temperature, weights and measures.

Qualifications:

• Experience in safe petroleum handling, distribution and storage or related field.
• Must be familiar with computer applications in spreadsheet, word processing.
• Understanding of Federal and Local regulations as they apply to petroleum handling, storage, and distribution.
• Must be able to work shifts based on a 24-hour work day, work extended hours, weekends and holidays.
• Good Interpersonal skills.
• Ability to communicate orally and in writing in English.

Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:

• Experience in marine terminal operations.
• Previous experience in petroleum handling and storage.
• Previous experience in Petroleum Industry.

If you are interested in and meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before December 30, 2013.

Attention:
Maria Kemp, Field Operations Manager-CNMI
642 East Marine Corps Drive, Hagatna, Guam 96910
(Fax) 670 236-8190
Email: maria.kemp@exxonmobil.com

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Man allegedly punches owner of Internet cafe

A man who consumed an alcoholic beverage inside an Internet café in Chalan Kanoa allegedly punched the shop's owner and showed disrespect to responding police officers on Sunday night.

Timothy John Phillip Kapileo, 26, was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. He is being kept on a \$1,250 cash bail.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report

that police officers Nicholas Leon Guerrero and Jackson Jack arrived at C&W Internet Café in Chalan Kanoa on Sunday at 11:23pm after receiving a call about a disturbance. The officers saw Kapileo standing

at the entrance to the shop, holding on to the door.

When Leon Guerrero asked him why he was holding the metal door, Kapileo uttered profanities against the officer.

As Jack removed Kapileo

from the doorway, the suspect refused to calm down and was very disrespectful toward the two officers.

The shop's owner told police that Kapileo paid to use the computer then started complaining about the screen. The owner saw Kapileo drinking an alcoholic beverage so he told him twice that he was not allowed to drink inside the shop.

The owner gave back a dollar to Kapileo, but the latter refused to accept it. He yelled at the owner and then allegedly punched him in the stomach.

When the owner stated he would call the police, the suspect went outside, closed the metal door and didn't want to let anyone out.

Police then arrested Kapileo. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Bank of Guam names winners of 2013 Christmas card contest



Second placer Nathaniel Hagans, Santa Barbara Catholic School, 8th Grade; first placer Anne Wen, St. John's School, 9th Grade; third placer Ami Vice, Untalan Middle School, 6th Grade; and Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer, and board chair Lou A. Leon Guerrero.

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam announced yesterday that the featured student artist on its 2013 Christmas Card is Anne Wen, an 8th grader from St. John's School. Second place went to Nathaniel Hagans, an 8th grader from Santa Barbara Catho-

lic School, and third place was awarded to Ami Vice, a 6th grader from Untalan Middle School.

The bank's annual contest, in its seventh year, garnered 620 en-

tries from 18 schools. With the theme, "Island Christmas Wish," the first 500 entries received a complimentary Coldstone coupon redeemable for an ice cream scoop.

» Anne Wen, St. John's 8th grader, is featured artist

Anne Wen received a check for \$250, while Nathaniel Hagans received a check for \$175 and Ami Vice received a check for \$100. Each of the three winners also received a school supply gift basket during the award presentation on Dec. 10, 2013. **(BOG)**

DUI checkpoints on Dec. 24

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Dec. 24, 2013.

The first checkpoint will be from 6pm to 7:15pm along Cha-

lan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau, in front of IT&E on the southbound lane.

The second checkpoint will be from 9:30pm to 10:45 along Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, in

front of Triple J Wholesale on the northbound lane.

The last checkpoint is from 12:30am to 1:45pm along Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau adjacent to the late Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence on the southbound lane.

In between checkpoints, traffic

officers along with patrol officers will be conducting highway interdiction, saturation patrol, aggressive drivers interdiction, and speed enforcement.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas at (670) 483-5818. **(DPS)**

Brilliant Star Holiday Bazaar this Saturday

It is officially the holiday season!

Brilliant Star School will kick off the holiday season with the Holiday Bazaar this Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Multi-Purpose Center from 9am until 5pm. The annual event showcases the arts of local artists and wares of other vendors, and allows island residents and visitors to buy unique and beautiful gifts for the holidays.

This year's Bazaar has drawn some new vendors and shoppers will have their pick of photographs by Mike Ronesia, island crafts and jewelry of Tokie Mojica and Martin Castro, Liqueurs from Island Infusions, gourmet candy and gift baskets by Michelle Sablan, leaf paintings, Flowerpot Creations, hand-stamped and knitted items and Mary Kay products from Jill Arenovsky, handicrafts from Wang Jing Corp., jewelry and Christmas items from Nora Javier, handmade signs by Tammy James, Brad's block prints, art by regulars Joe Kani and Jeanne Rayphand, handmade flowers by Dolores Cruz, handmade products from recycled paper by Sylvia Daguatan, illustrated story books by Skye Seo, and much more.

Throughout the day entertainment will be provided by a variety of local performers including Doremi School of Music, a tai chi demonstration, Pacific Flowers, Saipan Music and Dance, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Zumba, MHS Pep Band, MHS Glee Club, magician Prince, a piano performance by Cloency, a ukulele performance by Larry Lee and his group, and more.

Parents who want to have a little personal shopping time can drop their child off in the arts and crafts area, where the children can have their pick of a variety of art projects.

Shoppers have a chance to win items such as beautiful handmade jewelry, local artwork, and gift certificates from local restaurants in the hourly raffle drawings.

"We'd like to thank everyone in advance for making this event possible: the vendors, the businesses who donated items for the raffle, the entertainers, and our parents who helped organize the event. It is my favorite event to organize, I look forward to this event all year," said Richard Sikkil, principal of Brilliant Start School. "This event gets us all in the holiday spirit." **(PR)**

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 19, 2005

Asiana adds 3 more flights to Saipan

After upgrading its aircraft for its daily flights to Saipan, Asiana Airlines disclosed it would add three more flights to the island from Seoul due to rising travel demand in Korea. At the same time, Asiana disclosed that it has begun tapping into the Japanese market since the beginning of the month to partly fill the void following the pullout of Japan Airlines' flights to Saipan. The carrier has also begun servicing Chinese and Russian tourists to the CNMI via Seoul. Asiana's general manager for Saipan, Kwang Joong Kim, said the company would target around 20,000 tourists from Japan, China, and Russia, besides boosting the growth trend in Korean arrivals.

Govt urged to improve Saipan-Tinian link

With a goal of bringing in 10,000 Chinese tourists in 2006, Asiana Airlines urged the CNMI government to look into ways to improve transportation services between Saipan and Tinian. Asiana's general manager for Saipan Kwang Joong Kim said current transportation services between the two islands are inadequate to promote Tinian, even as Taga Air recently launched regular nightly flights to the

island. Asiana wants to tap into the Chinese market, in addition to Chinese travelers being brought in by China Southern Airlines and China Eastern Airlines' flights that are being chartered by Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and Century Tours, Inc.

December 19, 2006

Human smuggling try foiled

Authorities have arrested 11 allegedly overstaying Chinese nationals involved in another human smuggling attempt to Guam. Immigration investigator John Peter said agents from the Division of Immigration, Attorney General's Investigation Unit, and Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section arrested the 11 Chinese on board a 20-footer boat at the Smiling Cove Marina Saturday at 2am. Peter said the arrests were made due to an ongoing investigation where the respondents had been involved in previous attempt to be smuggled to Guam.

AG opinion on utility rates disputed

Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory was scored by two lawyers for his statement that the House of Representatives' attempt to set utility rates violates the Constitution and the Public Utilities Commission Act. A House legal counsel and a private attorney issued separate legal opinions disputing Gregory's claim that only PUC has the power to set rates. Antonette R. Villagomez, legal counsel for the Lower House, maintained that the Legislature has the power to enact House Bill 15-193, which would lower rates set by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. She argued that, if the Legisla-

ture could authorize CUC to establish electric rates, then repeal that power and give it to PUC, it means that the Legislature itself could establish the rates rather than delegating such authority to another government entity.

December 19, 2007

US Senate bill is 'Plan B'

The U.S. Senate version of the CNMI immigration federalization bill is not dead, and will serve as backup plan in case the House version does not make it through the Senate, according to a U.S. congressional staffer. "It's 'plan B' and remains poised for committee consideration," Allen Stayman said of Senate bill 1634. Stayman is the senior aide to Sen. Jeff Bingaman, chairman of the committee. Last week, Bingaman introduced Senate bill 2483, a package bill that includes the text of House bill 3079 as passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. This means the Senate version is now identical to the House version.

Rolling blackouts hit Saipan—again

Rotating power outages affected most areas on Saipan yesterday for many hours due to another engine problem at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 in Lower Base. The outages started at 2:19pm in Tanapag, Marpi, and As Matuis (Feeder 7). After a few minutes, CUC also took out power along Beach Road from Tony Roma's Restaurant to Black Microl in San Jose until 4:30pm. CUC also set rolling outages in other areas until 10:30pm last night as the utility agency conducted an eight-hour repair job on the engine.

USS *Cowpens* stops in Guam; sailors meet with students

By JOANNA DELFIN
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

INARAJAN, Guam—Sailors from the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS *Cowpens* met with students from Marcial Sablan Elementary School on Dec. 12 and Inarajan Elementary School on Dec. 13 to discuss their careers while the ship was in port on Guam.

"Every opportunity we have when we stop we try to do a [community relations project] and it gives us a chance to engage with the people who are in that particular culture because it gives our sailors a better idea of the area we are visiting," said Cowpens Chaplain Lt. Andrew Francis.

He said the engagements at the schools were enjoyable as the students asked different questions about the types of uniforms the sailors wore and places to where they've traveled.

"It doesn't matter what job the sailor has, the kids think every job is a cool job when you get to wear a uniform," Francis said. "They always ask questions about where we've gone and even the types of fish we see when we're out on the water."

Sailors met one-on-one with students and helped them with various holiday projects, spoke to them about their Christmas lists, and spent time with the kids on the playground.

Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Bo Rodriguez spoke to students during the crew's visit and said he felt it was necessary to share career experiences with the students as it gives them a greater understanding of how the Navy operates.

"If I can change one child's perspective of anything I'll be happy with that," he said. "I believe it's important so that they know what we're really about and we're not really out to harm anybody or anything like that."

Students from Jackysha Green's kindergarten class at Inarajan Elementary School were able to interact with and talk to sailors as they worked on homemade Christmas ornaments.

"Many of the students at this point aspire to become service members," she said. "[It] helps them to understand why it's im-



U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

Ship's Serviceman Seaman Neal Resolme, of the Ticonderoga-class guided missile ship USS *Cowpens*, interacts with and talks to students as they work on a holiday project during a community relations event at Inarajan Elementary School in Guam on Dec. 13.



U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

USS *Cowpens* Chaplain Lt. Andrew Francis talks to students about his naval career during the students' recess at a community relations event at Inarajan Elementary School in Guam on Dec. 13.



U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

Electrician's Mate Fireman Kimberly Vargas, of the Ticonderoga-class guided missile ship USS *Cowpens*, watches a student create a homemade Christmas ornament during a community relations event at Inarajan Elementary School in Guam on Dec. 13.

portant to do well academically so that they can persevere to become service men themselves. We are so glad they were able to come out and spend some time with our kids and show them who they are and talk about what they do."

Francis said he and his shipmates welcome any types of outreach projects when they are in port and encouraged other

commands to volunteer.

"It's always a good feeling to help out where you feel welcome and each of the [community relations events] they go above and beyond to make it happen and we have fun doing," he said. "It lets the community know more about the military and the U.S. as a lot of different sailors come from different places as well."

USNS *Bobo* completes mission in Palau

By TIMOTHY WILSON
MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PITI, Guam—Sailors aboard the USNS *2nd Lt. John P. Bobo* completed a nearly two-week long Theater Security Cooperation mission to the Republic of Palau from Dec. 2 to Dec. 14. The *Bobo*, home ported on Saipan, is the flagship Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron 3, under the command of Capt. Len Remias.

The mission was in support of Maritime Domain Awareness

initiative in the region. MDA is one of eight plans developed in support of the National Strategy for Maritime Security, as directed by National Presidential Directives and Homeland Security Directives. The main premise is to identify threats to maritime security as early as possible.

Four sailors from Naval Hospital Guam and Naval Special Warfare Unit 1 partnered with *Bobo* sailors and Military Sealift Command sailors aboard the ship to execute medical and communications training coordinated and facilitated by the

U.S. Defense Representative Political-Military Affairs office.

Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, U.S. Defense Representative to Palau, said the mission deepened the longstanding relationship between the U.S. and Palau.

"The professionalism and dedication displayed by the embarked sailors and the staff and crew of USNS *2nd Lt. John P. Bobo* demonstrated our commitment to the defense and security of Palau," said Payne. "This type of constructive engagement allows our sailors to learn from regional partners while en-

hancing interoperability, building capacity, and strengthening the relationship we have with the people of Palau."

Naval hospital personnel conducted medical training for 23 students from various Palauan security agencies, such as police, fire and conservation and emergency services. Each student completed the course and became certified in Basic Life Support procedures and other lifesaving techniques.

Members of NSWU-1 sailors led training on U.S. Navy communications equipment

and shared various techniques on line of sight and satellite communications with members of the Palauan maritime security force.

In addition to the training, the sailors were able to participate in a community relations visit at Palau High School. Seven sailors spent the afternoon of Dec. 11 playing volleyball and speaking with students about Navy life, career aspirations, and the importance of education.

Remias met with the vice president of Palau, Antonio Bells, *chargé d'affaires* for the U.S. Embassy in Palau, Thomas Daley, and other dignities during the visit strengthening bilat-

eral relationships between the U.S. and Palau.

"The *Bobo* crew and the civilian mariners are able to perform outside of their normal mission of a maritime prepositioning force, to do these other types of Theater Security Cooperation missions as well as humanitarian and disaster relief," said Remias. "We looked forward to the opportunity to work as an integrated team as professionals and mariners."

The principles of MDA allows for ships such as the *Bobo* to participate in TSC operations across the region while strengthening relationships with other nations and building capacity for future security operations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 252Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

'Kill switch' could curb smartphone thefts

Every time you pull out your smartphone in public, you're making yourself a target. The mobile gadgets are easy to spot, easy to steal and fetch hundreds of dollars quickly on the black market.

Cops have a name for it—Apple picking—but the iPhone maker is actually out front in the effort to curb gadget snatch-ing. An activation-lock feature on Apple's iOS 7 allows the owner to wipe data from a stolen phone, which can't be reactivated without the owner's password.

Now, a coalition of law enforcement officials, including Illinois' Attorney General Lisa Madigan, is pushing an initiative called Secure Our Smartphones.

The group has been pressuring cellphone makers to provide a remote antitheft feature called a "kill switch." If a phone is lost or stolen, the owner simply reports it to the carrier and the phone is rendered inoperable. If the phone doesn't work, there's not much reason to steal it.

So why hasn't the industry embraced the technology? The coalition has some troubling theories. Phonemakers have a disincentive: If your phone is stolen, you will probably buy another one, and fast. The carriers who service those phones have reason to resist, too. They make a lot of money selling insurance against loss or theft.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman sent letters to the carriers asking them to explain, and followed up with a news release: "If carriers are colluding to prevent theft-deterrent features from being preinstalled on devices as means to sell more insurance products, they are doing so at the expense of public safety and putting their customers in danger."

Yes, danger. While many phones are lifted from their owners' purses or snatched from their hands, many others are taken through force.

In Chicago, a 68-year-old woman died after being shoved down the stairs at the CTA's Fullerton Brown Line station by a 17-year-old who fled with an iPhone he stole on a train.

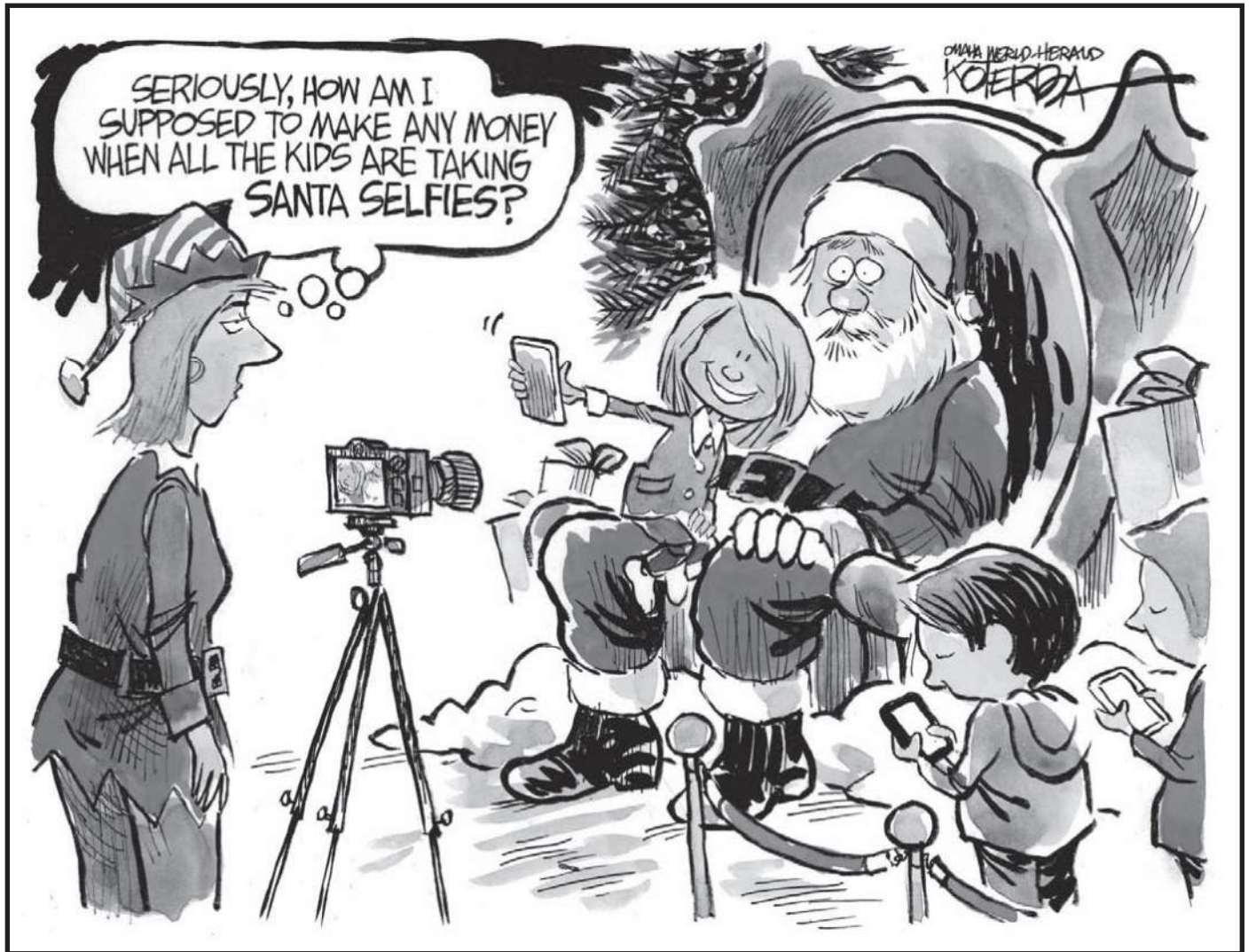
The Federal Trade Commission says one out of three robberies nationwide involves the theft of a mobile phone.

The wireless industry's preferred solution is a database assembled in cooperation with the Federal Communications Commission, law enforcement and governments. If someone tries to reactivate a phone that has been reported stolen, the carrier can block it. But police say that effort hasn't made a dent in the problem, partly because so many stolen phones end up overseas. And sophisticated thieves can change the phones' unique identifiers easily.

Schneiderman says his group will use "every tool in our toolbox" to pressure the industry to adopt the kill switch. He's made noises about possible deceptive trade practices, and yes, manufacturers' claims about their phones' security features appear exaggerated in the face of a thriving black market. But shaming the industry could be an effective tool, too.

The demand for stolen smartphones is a threat not just to your privacy and your pocketbook. It's a threat to your safety.

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Pardonne moi

One of the things I say in my Oral English class is that pronouncing words in the Chinese language, with its four tones and different pronunciation of "ch", "q", "sh", and "x" compared to standard English, invariably makes me mangle the language. "This should give you permission to speak and not worry about pronunciation and grammar. Just speak EnglisChe (the Dutch spelling I use for Chinese-English)," I add.

"I born in Shenyang," is perfectly OK in our setting since it is universally used. So is "I very shy." Students spend 10 years of being corrected, and the reflex result is to clamp down. I say, "If you find yourself in Chicago or Boston, you might want to insert the linking verb 'was' between 'I' and 'born', and 'am' between 'I' and 'very', otherwise, you are understood."

Once the permission is given to speak freely, they stand in front of their classmates and introduce themselves in English in a prescribed format. Most classes teach students to pass tests, familiarizing themselves with the "right" answers of the previous year's tests, readily available in print the year after.

My classroom work is to get students speak about themselves—to put words into their experience (noticing of the sense, not perception of the mind), their feelings (preferences, which tend to be metaphorical because Chinese art hide real feelings best kept secret), and their ideas and thoughts (the final intent of cognitive learning and critical thinking). Thus, talking of a subject they already know without reading a book loosens the tongue. Then I use the word "encounter" to point to meeting themselves and others, perhaps, for the first time.

They also bump into a "crazy" teacher, a "shen jing ping", the word for a nutty person, sometimes used endearingly, like "you're crazy," and sometimes not, like when we refer to one as a "crazy fool." But primarily, the phrase is my cover for pedagogically getting the students away from worrying about grades (that's my worry) and focus on the task of learning. I get snickered at when I pronounce the name of the country's President Xi Jin Ping, in the same way I pronounce "crazy person"!

It is in this last sense that we received last week's news of the purge in North Korea. Kim Jung Un's uncle and erstwhile trustee Jang Song Thaek was summarily dismissed, arrested, and executed for treason in a week. Politics seen as a world of intrigue in western practice (Machiavellian) is, understandably, the lens used in viewing all political maneuverings around the world. The media has a field day trying to analyze and explain what is happening in North Korea.

Designating North Korea as a "totalitarian" regime means that leaders do not come to their positions by general election. Holding elections is how we measure how democratic governments are. The reform movement of Thailand led by Mr. Suthep who depicts the current Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra as dancing to her

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



deposed former PM brother Thaksin's tune do not see dissolving Parliament and the holding of general elections as the way to conduct reforms. He wants to head a 400-person People's Council with members both elected and appointed. "General elections only confirm corrupt people in government," he says.

I am not sure a non-elected government is the way to go. On the other hand, the Shinawatra family has four members in politics following a politician father and royal Chiang Mai princess mother. The prospect of defeating their candidacy is nil.

Which brings us to "nepotism," a second charge leveled against Jang whose relatives are in government positions. In a country that prides itself on the rule of Kim, Kim, and Kim Unlimited, next to countries inured to dynastic rule like China and Japan, we assign malevolence to the practice? We would not use the term on the families of Bush, Clinton, Cuomo, Rockefeller, and the Kennedy in U.S. politics, nor of the British monarchy. Mr. Suthep, however, has a point. But convening a people's council sounds like the communes after the French Revolution that made Napoleon Bonaparte very attractive!

Third item on the lens is the word "brutal." Jang was executed without benefit of an open trial. Executions after all smack of capital punishment quietly tolerated, if it is to poison an Arafat, or when chasing al-Qaida leaders that might involve innocent victims. Fear is floated in North Asia as SoKor military goes on high alert. Kim Jung Un, after all, is a despicable tyrant, not to mention having bad haircut taste!

Collateral damage is the phrase for civilian victims of drones and Syria's chemical warfare. Toxic effluent disposal into an irrigation system has recently emerged as a practice in Taiwan to boost IT corporate profits. We did not learn a lesson from the thalidomide disaster in Japan in the '60s. This is hard to ignore. I once watched a healthy 40-year-old person convulse on the sidewalk because a fish he ate delivered a rogue radioactive atom that activated its laser beam-like fury.

Dick Cheney led Bush to go to war against Iraq for fun, to kick ass. That brutal? How about the systematic deportation of 2 million immigrants out of the United States since Obama moved to the White House?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Selebrasion Noche Buena

Tradision relihion tanu' i selebrasion Noche Buena gi enteru iya Marianas desde kiñientos (500) años antes. I Españaot umetablese este na tradision. Ginen finana'guen dottrina haf' tunas, dinanche yan justisia para todus tumutuhon mas fitme na areglun komunidat natibu.

I Españaot ha tulaika hagas kustumbren tanu' `nai i Manachañg (i mas tagpapa' na rasan Chamorro) ti masede gumai tanu'. Antes de este, debi u fan mamaisen petmisu ginen i tatkilu' na rasan Chamorro (Acha'ot yan Matua) usun tanu'. Hanae' tanu' niha i Manachañg kumu tautau. Adumididi', sige mas guaha ineyag justisia gi papa' sisteman demokrasia. Bes enkuando, mas antau hinanau natibu.

I tradision relihion tanu' muna' sumen ma'gas i selebrasion Noche Buena yan Pasgua. I areglu ni mafattu gi linahyan sumen bali. Mas mauleg relasion todus gi adelanton komunida.

Gi katkuet manera, sige i preparasion dinaña' familia para i ha'anen Noche Buena. Guaha preparasion mañge' na putahen neñkano' siha. Un' okasion `nai marinueba inafamauleg todus gi hilu' sumen namagof na felisitation. Matutuhon i amotsan taloane `sino sena dispues de bendision lamasa ni matriatkan familia.

Dinaña familia

I dinaña familia muna' fiftme pogsi' inagoflie', respetu yan inaya gi halom mane' lu, enfin i enteru familia. Sumen bonito na kustumbren tanu' ni tumanom fitme na pas yan inaguaiya gi halom todus. Estague' lokue' na tiempu `nai i amku' ha rikonose i mas chatsaga gi halom i tropa pot akonsehu yan konsuelu. Sumen namagof i pasensia yan motmut esperansa na inapagat nana yan tata pot para tanae' animu.

Un' manadan dinaña familian mame mismu `nai sumaunayuy' antes gi gima' biuhu yan biahu. Un' okasion lokue' `nai hu rikonose otu siha mañainahu ni man-senpoble lau motmut bendision ginen korason niha. Estague' na regalu i mas guaguan ke haf' na regalu—bendision mañaina.

Trabiha memetgot ha' i mañgiñge' Niño Jesus gi ha'anen Noche Buena. Sumen dañkulu na bendision para kada familia ni binisita ni Nanabreta. Maseha mamatmos hit trinite yan chinatsaga, gigon

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Keep trying

Many people would pick up some well known bits of information and use their core messages to tame the diversity and uncertainty of human existence. Mr. Alexander Sablan's reliance on "the Golden Rule" and the Woody Guthrie's song *This Land is Your Land* must have been a selection by Mr. Sablan to bring a point of what is "equal" in human interactions and God's desire for all mankind.

The world is full of conflicts and human disorders. Is Mr. Sablan cognizant of this reality before he checked his understanding about mankind and humanity? In the Middle East, for instance, countries in this region have been at war with each other for more than 3,000 years. Here in our own islands, our leaders are engaged in politics that favor one class of people they ascertain as logical and just, while in just as many situations they dismiss and disregard the concerns of an equally deserving class of people. So, the Golden Rule, "One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself" is all relative and comes with boundaries and limitations. The Silver Rule, "One should not treat others in ways that one would not like to be treated" is played in the same conditional human order and disorder. Hence, no one is equal no matter what basis in the Bible that Mr. Sablan would resort to to bring a point about "equal" and "equality" of humanity. In the Book of Job: 13,11 is this point: "Does not the ear judge words as the mouth tastes food?" Hence, Mr. Sablan would need to clarify what he is saying.

The song *This Land is Your Land* was sung by a communist, Woody Guthrie. This is a protest song written during the Depression when people were unable to find work and were going hungry. For a long time this music was thought of as a patriotic song, but it was actually not. The music created an image of inequality on real social issues in that the government was not taking care of the people, and questioned "Is this land really ours?" In the state of Nevada, only 2 percent of land is in private ownership, the rest are being grabbed by the federal government. In the CNMI, the submerged land issue taken up by our congressional delegate remains an elusive matter because of doubts that the deal may after all have shorted the NMI people and we potentially got the short end of the deal. So, just as the music begs: Is this land really ours? Mr. Sablan may have chosen the wrong reference to justify his point. Keep trying, Alexander.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

mattu gi gima' ha hatsa ensegidas sensiata esperansa yan inañgoghu na un' dia "este lokue' u fa'pus"—pinadesisita siha.

Gi halom fresko na mañglo' minagof, ta hahassu lokue' i man-yinamag lina' la' niha giya Filipinas yan tinayuyot para familiata ni esta man-gaige gi naftan. Sen mas, bien felis na Noche Buena para todus!

Dispues de Misan Gayu

Desde minachom atdau, esta si nana hagas ha tutuhon mamatinas sentadan Noche Buena para i tropa `an man-mattu ginen i Misan Gayu. Antes este na tiempu.

Todu klasen putahe ha prepara desde pinada' titiyas mai'es, hinegsa' balensiana, tininun guihan yan katne; katdun manog fresku ni mañañada'; flitadan babue yan guaka; kelaguen manog yan guihan; atulen harina yan atmayas; motsiyas yan inafilutun manog yan guihan.

Lau megai na familia guihe na tiempu man-ginacha' ha'ilas gi hinanau i Navy. In' usune tumotne i guafe ya in' nalagu i kafe ni inna' dinilalag papa' sinetnen sune yan kamute. Dispues sige estoria estake man-maliñgu maigu' mame. I sigiente dia in' prepara para i finatton i Niño.

Dispues de hinanau i Niño `nai in' bisita i mañainan mame yan bisinu siha.

Nobenan Niño Jesus

Antes de ha'anen Noche Buena, sige lumiliku' nobenan i Niño gi gima todus i bisinu siha. Kada tres dias mamueba para i otu guma'. Mañanau lamayot bisinu gi ma-assisten nobena.

Tai malefaghu i paire na fina' sena gi dos guma' ni sessu ma-planta hinegsa' balensiana yan inafilutun manog. Hombre, dispues de tres biahe na plantadan sune yan kafe `sino asiga yan doni' sali

A grand bargain on guns? Here's how

By **RICHARD FELDMAN AND ARKADI GERNEY**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

A year ago, in the days after 20 schoolchildren and six adults were gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., it seemed for a moment that something had changed in America's long-running cultural debate on guns. A new kind of national conversation—even some consensus—seemed possible. But that was then. Today the voices on both sides of the gun policy debate are back to being as shrill as ever.

Still, behind the heated rhetoric, there are areas of agreement. While polls show Americans almost evenly divided on the question of whether they want more gun control or stricter laws, they overwhelmingly support expanded gun-buyer background checks and overwhelmingly oppose bans on handguns.

Those two strongly held positions suggest potential for crafting a grander bargain on guns, a new set of policies that would be premised on two complementary goals: protecting the rights of responsible, law-abiding gun owners and gun sellers, while giving law enforcement better tools to deter and prosecute criminal access to guns.

What might such a grand bargain look like?

For starters, it would clearly set out the rights and responsibilities of gun retailers. Advocates for stronger gun laws argue that there are a handful of bad-apple gun stores that, through incompetence, gross negligence and nefarious intent, lose track of tens or hundreds of guns they are supposed to maintain in inventory. That's true.

Gun rights advocates point out that most retail firearm dealers are mom-and-pop businesses and that, on some occasions, they have been shut down by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for mere paperwork errors. That's also true.

Why does the ATF shut down these small dealers? Because doing so is the only civil tool it has to encourage compliance with its rules.

The solution isn't that complicated. In addition to maintaining the ATF's ability to shut down the most egregious gun dealers, Congress should enact a law that would also allow the ATF to assess sliding fines or brief suspensions. A provision that would do this is included in a bill introduced by Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and endorsed by the National Rifle Association.

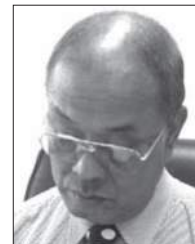
Another element of a grand bargain would involve redefining who is prohibited from owning a gun. Under federal law, all convicted felons, along with domestic abusers, adjudicated mentally ill people and certain other narrow categories of people are by default barred—typically for life—from purchasing, borrowing or possessing guns.

This federal ban is both too expansive and not expansive enough. A law should be passed that makes people convicted of nonviolent drug offenses and financial crimes automatically eligible by default to possess guns again after a period of years.

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



paire i inafilutun manog potlilu.

Guaha na fina' mames ha' i gai gima' ha pega ala kuenta para i man-nobebena na famaguon. Hombre este estaya tinilaika ta'lu i sabot sunen Honolulu. Kase siña bai' sañgan na dumañkulun sune Honolulu si Iku. Binaya'yu' sune. Esta pa'gu tatnai hu tañga.

■ ■ ■
`An ta hassu tatte i komunidan Chalan Kanoa yan Susupe, man-hihot i tautau ayu mina' taya' minasa' gi inadahen todus. Man-listu i mañaina mañanau gi areglon famaguon siha. I maestro yan maestro siha mapinitie i pineblen familia ayu na mañanau gi satton na edukasion todus guihe na tiempu. Esta este na tiempu, sessu familia man-anae' kinisechan gualu yan pineskan guihan `sino pininu' pinegsai. Buente pot matulaikan i tiempu na mafnas este na kustumbreta.

■ ■ ■
Hu konsidera kau u parehu mamesña i hanom `an masaguan gi halom gotgureta pat kase maulegña gi halom tetmosu? Cha'mu pineredidika pot hafa gotgureta sa' esta ti mana' sesetbe na tiempu. Maulegña fan aligau tuban mames ya ta lasan ñaihon hit gi bespiran Noche Buena. Felis Noche Buena! Si Iku.

At the same time, certain dangerous criminals are slipping through the cracks of the federal laws. While 39 states prohibit gun possession or gun carrying by certain violent misdemeanants, federal law is silent. We should update the federal law to bar gun possession by people sentenced to jail terms for violent misdemeanor crimes, such as stalking or assault, for a period of years.

A third component of better gun laws would include both expanded background checks and expanded rights for those who have qualified for permits to carry concealed weapons. Last April, in the wake of Newtown, 55 senators voted to support expanded gun background checks—and that same day, 57 senators voted for a provision to allow permit holders from one state to carry concealed guns into any other state. Both measures failed because they did not meet the 60-vote threshold.

Gun rights advocates argue that a federal law to allow interstate concealed carry should be likened to the way states honor driver's licenses from every other state. On the other side, gun control advocates argue that, because some states have vastly more stringent standards for issuing gun-carry permits, they should have the right to keep out people with permits from more lenient states.

Meanwhile, on background checks, polls consistently show that more than three-quarters of Americans, including clear majorities of gun owners, support expanding background checks. But some gun owners worry about regulating transfers among family members, friends, co-workers and other people they know well.

So, let's address all these concerns and come up with a system that requires checks for all gun sales but exempts transfers among family members, temporary transfers and a small set of other transactions. And let's devise a uniform set of intelligent standards, including training and clean criminal records, for a national concealed-carry system.

These three steps won't, by themselves, end the gun debate. Even as we write this piece, the two of us disagree on aspects of gun laws. For example, one of us believes a law banning 30-round magazines would have a significant public safety impact, while the other believes such a restriction is a diversionary tactic that would unnecessarily limit the rights of responsible gun owners.






But we agree that the three proposals we make here would enhance the rights of law-abiding gun owners and sellers and make it harder for violent criminals seeking easy access to guns. Gun owners would enjoy fuller freedoms, and fewer people would die. So, what are we waiting for?

Richard Feldman is the president of the Independent Firearm Owners Association Inc. and author of the book Ricochet: Confessions of a Gun Lobbyist. Arkadi Gerney is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and former gun policy adviser to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼82
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼78
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼79

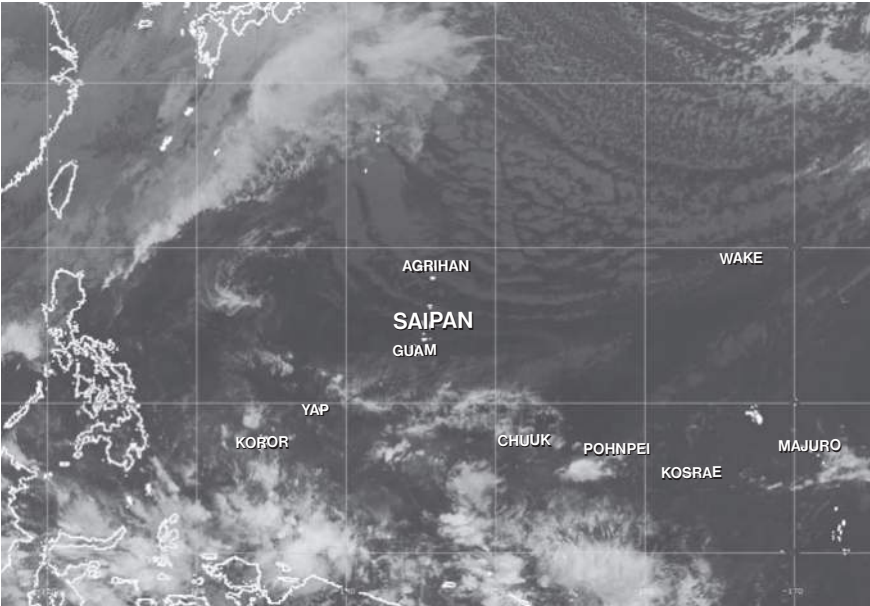
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲38 ▼16
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲61 ▼52
Honolulu	Sunny	▲80 ▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼40
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲99 ▼66
Miami	Sunny	▲77 ▼63
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲36 ▼25
Osaka	Showers	▲54 ▼40
Paris	Rain	▲49 ▼39
Pusan	Windy	▲43 ▼32
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼49
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲45 ▼28
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲29 ▼18
Tokyo	Rain	▲52 ▼41
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲41 ▼31

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
9:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergence associated with low pressure just southeast of Japan is causing clouds and rain in a large area northwest of a line from 25N135E to 22N130E. A weak cold front curves southwestward from 23N180E to 19N170E, then continues after a break as a shear line from 14N160E to end southwest of Guam at 9N142E. Patchy clouds, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found northeast of Wake Island along and up to 350 miles northwest of the cold front. Scattered light showers are found up to 150 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 4N130E to end at EQ142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen south of Koror between the equator and 5N from 130E to 140E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Monday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:27 PM	7:44 AM
Friday	8:15 PM	8:27 AM
Saturday	9:03 PM	9:09 AM
Sunday	9:51 PM	9:49 AM
Monday	10:39 PM	10:28 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR) DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 OZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Income gap holds back US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The growing gap between the richest Americans and everyone else isn't bad just for individuals.

It's hurting the U.S. economy.

So says a majority of more than three dozen economists surveyed last week by The Associated Press. Their concerns tap into a debate that's intensified as middle-class pay has stagnated while wealthier households have thrived.

A key source of the economists' concern: Higher pay and outsize stock market gains are flowing mainly to affluent Americans. Yet these households spend less of their money than do low- and middle-income consumers who make up most of the population but whose pay is barely rising.

"What you want is a broader spending base," says Scott Brown, chief economist at Raymond James, a financial advisory firm. "You want more people spending money."

Spending by wealthier Americans, given the weight of their dollars, does help drive the economy. But analysts say the economy would be better able to sustain its growth if the riches were more evenly dispersed. For one thing, a plunge in stock

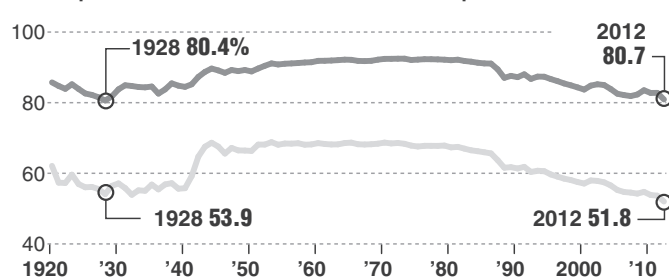
The rich and the rest

The income gap between high-income U.S. households and the 99 percent grew to its widest point since 1928 last year, when the top 1 percent held nearly 20 percent of total earnings.

Declining wealth of the rest

Annual percent share of household income, 1920-2012

— 99 percent of households* — Bottom 90 percent*



*Top 1 percent had incomes above \$294,000 in 2012; top 10 percent, above \$114,000

Source: "Striking it Richer: The Evolution of Top Incomes in the United States," by Emmanuel Saez, University of California Berkeley
Graphic: Pat Carr

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prices typically leads wealthier Americans to cut sharply back on their spending.

"The broader the improvement, the more likely it will be sustained," said Michael Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers.

A wide gap in pay limits the ability of poorer and middle-income Americans to improve their living standards, the economists say. About 80 percent of stock market wealth is held by the richest 10 percent

of Americans. That means the stock market's outsize gains this year have mostly benefited the already affluent.

Those trends have fueled an escalating political debate. In a speech this month, President Barack Obama called income inequality "the defining challenge of our time."

Obama also called for an increase in the federal minimum wage, now \$7.25. Republican leaders in the House oppose an increase, arguing that it would slow hiring.

Don't make assumptions about manager's neglect

QUESTION: Several months ago, our entire human resources management team was fired. I was promoted to fill one of the manager positions, then a director and two other managers were brought in from the outside. These three people are all minorities, and I am a white male.

From the beginning, my new boss has left me out of important discussions. Today, for example, he scheduled a meeting with the other two managers, but I was not invited. When I asked if I could attend, he said the topic didn't involve me. He also seems to view my projects as insignificant and has made them a lower priority.

After sixteen years with this company, I can't understand why I'm being treated this way. What do you think is happening here?

ANSWER: By highlighting the group's racial composition, you appear to be offering this as the reason for your exclusion. While that might be an easy explanation, you should avoid jumping to this conclusion until you've considered other possibilities.

Dismissing an entire leadership team is a radical move, so top management clearly has serious concerns about the HR department. Your new director

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



has undoubtedly been given a strong directive for change and is under pressure to produce results. Therefore, his attention is likely to be focused on specific, critical goals.

Under these circumstances, you may have been marginalized because, at the moment, your function is considered less essential. Another possibility is that, as a member of the "old guard," you are viewed as less open to new approaches. But of course this is all speculation.

To obtain a more informed opinion, consider locating a trustworthy mentor by tapping into your internal network. Since you were promoted after the mass firing, you obviously have supporters in management, so you should be able to find someone who can give you the real scoop.

If you ultimately conclude that you are experiencing discrimination, then you will have legal options to consider. That would be a drastic step, so you don't want to go there

too quickly.

Q: One woman in our group is extremely nosy. Whenever someone takes vacation or leaves work early, "Rhonda" tries to find out where they are going or why they need time off. Since I have no desire to share this information, I always give a neutral response like "I just have some things to do," but Rhonda continues to ask until I finally tell her. How can I put a stop to this?

A: Although Rhonda certainly sounds like a pest, you are also contributing to the problem. Every time you succumb to her persistent probing, you reward the very behavior that you wish to discourage. The solution, therefore, is to stiffen your backbone and stop giving out information.

Instead of prolonging these interactions until Rhonda wears you down, just give your generic answer, then end the conversation. If you feel this would be impolite, please remember that Rhonda is the one who's being rude.

Nation

Gunman kills self, 1 other at hospital

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A gunman opened fire at a hospital campus in Reno on Tuesday, killing one person and wounding two others before turning the weapon on himself.

The Nevada Department of Public Safety said the wounded victims were in surgery and one of them is a doctor.

Police initially said the gunman shot four people before killing himself, but they later said he wounded two people and killed another before committing suicide.

"We have two people confirmed deceased in the building, two others injured," said Reno Police Deputy Police Chief Tom Robison.

Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Gail Powell said the wounded doctor is a woman but she had no more information about the identity of the victims or the gunman, the type of weapon or a motive for the attack. She said the shooting happened at the Center for Advanced Medicine and Neurology of Nevada.

Renown Regional Medical Center was put on lockdown amid the chaos of the shooting as law enforcement rushed to the scene and victims were treated by doctors on the hospi-



Source: ESRI, AP © 2013 MCT

tal campus. More than three dozen police cars, including SWAT team vehicles, surrounded the sprawling medical complex and closed off a three-block area near downtown Reno.

State Sen. Debbie Smith said she was at Renown for an appointment and was trying to leave a nearby building around 2:45 p.m. when the shooting occurred.

"I encountered some SWAT team guys, they said nobody

was leaving," she said. "A police officer was at the door and said I couldn't go out there."

Renown Regional Medical Center posted a notice on its website less than two hours after the shooting saying that operations had returned to normal at the main hospital but police were still investigating the shooting in an office building on the northeast corner of the campus.

The Center for Advanced Medicine building is a modern four-story structure connected by a second-floor walkway to the hospital and a parking structure.

Gov. Brian Sandoval said on Twitter that he and his staff were monitoring the situation and his thoughts and prayers were with those affected by the tragedy.

Renown Regional Medical Center is the largest hospital in northern Nevada. It has played an important role in responding to several recent tragedies in northern Nevada, including a crash at a Reno air race in 2011 that killed 11 people and a rampage at a Carson City restaurant the same year that killed three uniformed Nevada National Guard members.

Blind man, guide dog safe after subway track fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Gallant guide dog Orlando was just doing his duty.

The black Lab bravely leapt on to the tracks at a Manhattan subway platform Tuesday after his blind owner lost consciousness and tumbled in front of an oncoming train.

Cecil Williams, 61, and Orlando both escaped serious injury when the train passed over top of them—a miraculous end to a harrowing ordeal that began when Williams began to feel faint on his way to the dentist.

"He tried to hold me up," the emotional Williams told The Associated Press from his hospital bed, his voice breaking at times.

Witnesses said Orlando began barking frantically and tried to stop Williams from falling from the platform. Matthew Martin told the New York Post that Orlando jumped down and tried to rouse Williams even as a train approached.

"He was kissing him, trying to get him to move," Martin said.

Witnesses called for help and the train's motorman slowed his approach as Williams and Orlando lie in the trench between the rails.

"The dog saved my life," Williams said.



Cecil Williams pets his guide dog Orlando in his hospital bed following a fall onto subway tracks from the platform, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013, in New York.

As Williams regained consciousness, he said he heard someone telling him to be still. Emergency workers put him on a stretcher and pulled him from the subway, and made sure Orlando was not badly injured.

"I'm feeling amazed," Williams said. "I feel that God, the powers that be, have something in store for me. They didn't take me away this time. I'm here for a reason."

Williams was taken to a hospital where he is expected to recover, with Orlando at his bedside. Williams, a large bandage on his head, said he is not sure why he lost consciousness, but he is on insulin and other medications.

Orlando, described by Wil-

liams as serious but laid-back, was making new friends at the hospital. He will be rewarded with some kind of special treat, Williams said, along with plenty of affection and scratches behind the ears.

"(He) gets me around and saves my life on a daily basis," Williams said.

Williams, of Brooklyn, has been blind since 1995, and Orlando is his second dog. The lab will be 11 on Jan. 5, and will be retiring soon, Williams said. His health insurance will not cover the cost of a non-working dog, so he will be looking for a good home for him.

If he had the money, Williams said, "I would definitely keep him."



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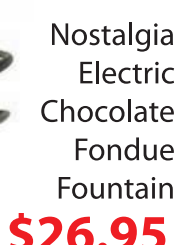
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Focus

The pair of lungs sits inside a clear dome, gently inflating as doctors measure how well they'll breathe if implanted into a patient who desperately needs a new set.

It's a little-known twist of nature—your lungs can live on for a while after you die. The air left inside keeps them from deteriorating right away as other organs do.

An innovative experiment now aims to use that hour-or-more window of time to boost lung transplants by allowing donations from people who suddenly collapse and die at home instead of in a hospital.

"There aren't enough lungs. We're burying them," said Dr. Thomas Egan of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, who is leading the project. "It turns out your lungs don't die when you do."

This is a new frontier for transplants.

Today, registered organ donors don't get to fulfill that last wish if they die outside of a hospital. The U.S. doesn't have a system to recover their organs quickly enough. It can be an added shock to grieving families, and a waste of potentially good organs that might ease transplant shortages.

"The general public does not understand how hard it is to become an organ donor. They assume if they sign their card, when they die, then it will happen," said bioethicist Arthur Caplan of New York University's Langone Medical Center. "Only 2 to 3 percent of people die in circumstances that let them be organ donors."

The new study in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina is trying to change that, focusing on lungs because Egan's research suggests they last the longest.

Here's how it works.

Someone collapses with cardiac arrest. Emergency workers exhaust attempts at CPR. If the driver's license lists the person as a registered donor, the local organ recovery agency tracks down next-of-kin for permission to participate in the research.

If that happens within about an hour of death, then workers pump a little air into the lungs to preserve them while the body is transported to an operating room for organ recovery.

Workers wheeled a cooler bearing the first set of lungs donated in the experiment into Egan's lab for the next crucial step—determining if they're really healthy.

Inside the science fiction-looking domed machine, a ventilator slowly filled the lungs. They resembled a turkey awaiting roasting. Some black speckles on the outside didn't worry



There aren't enough lungs. We're burying them. ...It turns out your lungs don't die when you do.

— Dr. Thomas Egan

In this Oct. 25, 2013 photo, Lisa Bowman sits at her home in Union Grove, N.C. Bowman, who suffers from a lung disease, has been on the transplant waiting list for two years. It's a little-known twist of nature: Your lungs can live on for a while after you die. The air left inside keeps them from deteriorating right away like other organs. Now an innovative experiment aims to use that hour or more window of time to boost lung transplants by allowing donations from people who suddenly collapse and die at home instead of in a hospital. Bowman hopes the research will speed her wait for new lungs.

AP

Seeking lung donors after at-home death

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

Egan. They're a sign of city living, or maybe earlier smoking. It's deeper inside that counts.

Egan infused them with a special fluid that flows like blood normally would. This so-called *ex vivo* lung perfusion preserves the lungs even longer. It can tell if they transfer oxygen properly or help spot signs of disease. Egan also peeked inside with a bronchoscope, looking for abnormalities.

These lungs didn't pass the test because Egan found some early disease. But they did show it was possible to get a donation in time to try.

Lungs that do pass will be transplanted into patients willing to take a chance on these nontraditional organs, as part of the study funded by the National Institutes of Health.

"That would be the greatest thing, to be able to breathe normal," said Lisa Bowman, 51, of Union Grove, N.C.

Bowman has been on the waiting list for new lungs for two years after a rare genetic disease gradually damaged her own until, she says, it became like "breathing through a pinhole." She hopes Egan's research will help her find a match more quickly.

Some previous U.S. attempts at out-of-hospital donation of another organ, kidneys, didn't pan out because of logistical hurdles. But transplant special-

ists are watching this newest experiment closely, saying that if it works, it eventually could open the way to many more donations—not just lungs but maybe other organs, too.

"We've had a number of very disgruntled family members that wanted to donate (a loved one's organs) and weren't able to," said Dr. Jeffrey Punch, transplant surgery chief at the University of Michigan. Spurred by that family reaction, in a few months, his team plans to try recovering kidneys from cardiac arrest victims who are rushed to the emergency room but can't be saved and turn out to be registered donors.

In North Carolina, Egan's study likewise will try to recover lungs from people who die in the ER as well as in the community.

Today, the vast majority of donated organs come from people who suffer a severe injury and are hooked to a ventilator for days, even weeks, until doctors determine they are brain-dead. Machinery keeps blood and oxygen flowing until surgeons can collect organs deemed healthy enough.

What about registered donors who collapse with cardiac arrest at home, the office or the gym—and efforts at CPR fail? Experience overseas shows it's

possible to take quick steps to preserve and recover their organs. Doctors in Spain have transplanted kidneys, livers and lungs from these unconventional donors. France has reported some success with kidneys.

In the United States, more than 6,000 people died last year while awaiting one of those organs.

Lungs are in particularly short supply. Only 15 percent to 20 percent of donated lungs are usable, often because complications during the donor's hospitalization damaged them. Just 1,700 lungs transplants are performed each year, compared with nearly 11,000 kidney transplants from deceased donors.

Egan, a cardiothoracic surgeon, said doctors don't even suggest the possibility of a lung transplant to thousands who might benefit because there aren't enough donors.

Yet the Institute of Medicine has estimated that as many as 22,000 people a year who die outside of hospitals could be potential organ donors if scientists settle some ethical and practical questions.

Buying time to recover those organs means doing some things not normally done to dead bodies, noted bioethicist Caplan, and that can mean ventilating lungs or filtering blood to the kidneys.

How will grieving families react? Is it possible to tell who's a registered donor, and find next-of-kin, in time to try?

New York City studied kidney donations after at-home deaths in 2011.

Dr. Stephen Wall of Bellevue Hospital Center said community and religious groups met with researchers and were interested. But study rules restricted which deaths were eligible, and researchers had just 20 minutes to get initial family permission. In six months, nine deaths were considered but didn't qualify, often because the deceased hadn't previously registered as an organ donor, Wall said. New York is among states with low donor registration rates.

Wall's team is considering trying again with lungs, because of the longer time window.

Lung cells don't depend on blood flow for oxygen, Egan explained. When the heart stops beating, they use what oxygen is left in the air sacs and airways.

For how long? In a series of experiments with animals, Egan showed lungs stay viable for an hour, or four hours if they are ventilated, before they're cooled to await transplant.

That ventilation is one key to the \$4 million, three-year study, because when emergency workers exhaust attempts at CPR and declare someone dead, they typically leave behind the breath-

ing tube inserted in the person's throat. That makes it simple to restart ventilation to preserve the lungs, Egan said.

"If we can get the lungs ventilated within an hour, and then removed within an hour or two and cooled, we think they'll work just fine," he said.

Kidneys don't have as long a survival window. But in Michigan, Punch has a similar preservation plan: Insert a few tubes near the kidneys to filter blood to them until they're recovered.

Fast retrieval isn't the only issue. Surgeons don't know if nontraditional organs work as well, cautioned Dr. Bryan Meyers of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Chest X-rays and other in-hospital donor testing determine the quality of today's traditionally donated lungs.

"This trial is very timely and very pertinent," Meyers said, to see if testing in that domed machine could substitute for that hospital track record.

Egan notes that lung disease is the nation's third-leading killer. He says the untapped pool of potential donors who die outside of the hospital could expand transplants significantly.

"There are huge logistical hurdles," he said. "But if we're right, this would have a profound impact on the number of lungs that are available for transplant."

Environment

Study: Yellowstone magma much bigger than thought

By MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA, Montana (AP)—The hot molten rock beneath Yellowstone National Park is 2 ½ times larger than previously estimated, meaning the park's supervolcano has the potential to erupt with a force about 2,000 times the size of Mount St. Helens, according to a new study.

By measuring seismic waves from earthquakes, scientists were able to map the magma chamber underneath the Yellowstone caldera as 55 miles

(88.5 kilometers) long, lead author Jamie Farrell of the University of Utah said Monday.

The chamber is 18 miles (29 kilometers) wide and runs at depths from 3 to 9 miles (5 to 14 1/2 kilometers) below the earth, he added.

That means there is enough volcanic material below the surface to match the largest of the supervolcano's three eruptions over the last 2.1 million years, Farrell said.

The largest blast—the volcano's first—was 2,000 times the size of the 1980 eruption of

Mount St. Helens in Washington state. A similar one would spew large amounts of volcanic material in the atmosphere, where it would circle the earth, he said.

"It would be a global event," Farrell said. "There would be a lot of destruction and a lot of impacts around the globe."

The last Yellowstone eruption happened 640,000 years ago, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. For years, observers tracking earthquake swarms under Yellowstone have warned the caldera is overdue to erupt.

Farrell dismissed that notion,

In this Friday, Aug. 15, 1997 file photo, an unidentified pair of visitors to the Yellowstone National Park photograph the Old Faithful geyser as it rockets 100-feet skyward in Wyoming.

AP



saying there isn't enough data to estimate the timing of the next eruption.

"We do believe there will be another eruption, we just don't know when," he said.

There are enough instruments monitoring the seismic activity of Yellowstone that scientists would likely know well ahead of time if there was unusual activity happening and magma was moving to the surface, Farrell said.

The USGS' Yellowstone Volcano Observatory listed the park's volcano alert level as "normal" for December.

Yellowstone attracts millions of visitors with its geothermal features of geysers, hot springs and bubbling mud pots. The park just opened its gates on Sunday for its winter season.

Park officials did not immediately return a call for comment.

A large earthquake at Yellowstone is much more likely than a volcano eruption, Farrell said.

The 7.5-magnitude Hebgen Lake earthquake killed 28 people there in 1959.

Farrell presented his findings last week to the American Geophysical Union. He said

he is submitting it to a scholarly journal for peer review and publication.

Brigham Young University geology professor Eric Christiansen said the study by Farrell and University of Utah Professor Bob Smith is very important to understanding the evolution of large volcanos such as Yellowstone's.

"It helps us understand the active system," Christiansen said. "It's not at the point where we need to worry about an imminent eruption, but every piece of information we have will prepare us for that eventuality."

FIRE UNDERGROUND

Yellowstone National Park sits on an active volcanic system, and although the system shows no signs that it is headed toward an eruption, such an eruption could be catastrophic.

Covered in ash

If another eruption were to occur at Yellowstone, thick ash deposits would bury vast areas of the United States

Ash beds

Mount St. Helens
1980 eruption killed 57 people; most ash fell within 300 mi. (482 km)

Previous eruptions

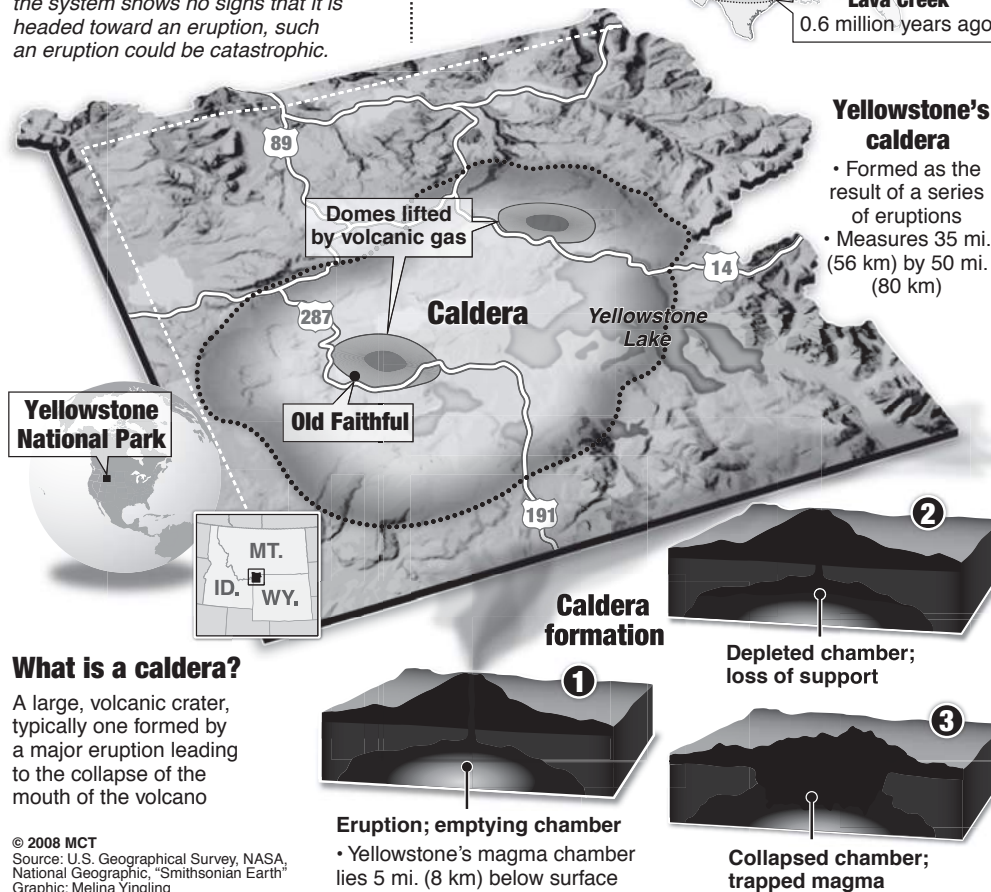
Mesa Falls
1.3 million years ago

Huckleberry Ridge
2.1 million years ago

Lava Creek
0.6 million years ago

Yellowstone's caldera

- Formed as the result of a series of eruptions
- Measures 35 mi. (56 km) by 50 mi. (80 km)



What is a caldera?

A large, volcanic crater, typically one formed by a major eruption leading to the collapse of the mouth of the volcano

© 2008 MCT
Source: U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, National Geographic, Smithsonian Earth
Graphic: Melina Yingling

NOAA: Arctic sea-ice melt linked to extreme summer weather

By SEAN COCKERHAM
MCCLEACHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—A growing body of evidence demonstrates a link between the melting of Arctic sea ice and worsening summer heat waves and other extreme weather in the United States and elsewhere in the world, leading scientists said Thursday.

"The Arctic is not like Vegas. What happens in the Arctic does not stay in the Arctic," said Howard Epstein, a University of Virginia environmental scientist who's part of a team that produced the Arctic Report Card for the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The report card, released Thursday, said that while this year's melting of Arctic sea ice didn't reach the record levels of 2012, the ice was thin and was at the sixth-lowest minimum since observations began in 1979.

"We cannot expect to be smashing records every year; there are going to be ups and downs. But those up and downs are going to be superimposed on the trend of a warming Arctic," said Martin Jeffries, a University of Alaska Fairbanks professor who's the adviser to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission.

The decadeslong decline in Arctic sea ice is among the most visible signs of global warming.

NOAA's Arctic Report Card came days after a study in the journal Nature Climate Change linked the sea-ice melt to extreme summer weather in North America and Europe.

Experts from China and the U.S. wrote in the journal that rising temperatures over the melting Arctic were changing the character of the Northern Hemisphere jet stream, the fast-flowing air current that circles the globe.

"More frequent extreme summer heat events over mid-latitude continents are linked with reduced sea ice and snow through these circulation changes," they wrote.

Scientists are strongly de-

bating those conclusions. But Jeffries, who edited the NOAA Arctic Report Card, said Thursday that they reflected a growing body of evidence.

"We can say the statistical relationships are there," Jeffries said.

He said more research was needed to understand the process and to get a better sense of the underlying physics.

Jeffries and the other scientists who worked on the NOAA report said there'd be variations from year to year but that the Arctic was in a "new normal" of melting.

Alaska experienced record-breaking heat this summer, though it followed a cold spring

in which the first green buds didn't appear in the Alaskan Interior until May 26. That's the latest since observations began in 1972, according to the NOAA report.

The report also found a dramatic increase in the number and severity of Arctic wildfires. More than half the wildfires reported since 1950 on the North Slope of Alaska happened during the past decade, according to the report.

The Arctic growing season has lengthened by nearly a month since 1982, the report card indicates.

The report comes as the Arctic is increasingly targeted as a source for the fossil fuel energy

that scientists have linked to warming of the planet.

"As climate change renders the Arctic increasingly accessible, there has been a substantial uptick in industry interest in the region," according to a report that Washington's Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars released this week.

The report forecasts \$100 billion in investments in the region over the next decade as oil companies explore in offshore Alaska, Canada, Russia and Norway. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that the Arctic could contain 30 percent of the world's undiscovered natural gas reserves and 13 percent of such reserves for oil.

Life & Style

Ancient Stonehenge gets modern-day revamp

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STONEHENGE, England (AP)—After thousands of years, Stonehenge has had a makeover. But visitors may initially feel something is missing: the prehistoric monument itself.

Tourists now arrive at a gleaming new timber-and-glass visitor center some 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) from Stonehenge. The famous stone circle tucked into the rolling green landscape is nowhere to be seen.

It's a teasing introduction to the site, where new facilities and landscaping are designed to "restore the dignity" of Stonehenge, and transform the way more than 1 million visitors a year see it.

Simon Thurley, who heads governing body English Heritage, said visitors will now be able to see the stones "free from the clutter and rubbish" that have been built up around them.

On Tuesday, journalists and English Heritage mem-



Visitors take photographs of the world heritage site of Stonehenge, England, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013.

AP

bers were given a preview of the new center, which houses a 360-degree Cinerama-style "virtual tour" of the monument, along with an extensive exhibition about the Neolithic Britons who built Stonehenge starting 5,000 years ago.

When the building opens to the public on Wednesday, workers will dismantle the old ticket office and other nondescript

structures clustered beside the monument. A busy road that ferried thousands of cars a day past the stones is being closed and grassed over.

The idea is to return Stonehenge, 80 miles (130 kilometers) southwest of London, to its rural landscape. Visitors will be bussed to the stones on a special shuttle. Or they can walk, exploring paths and an ancient

processional approach route that for years has been cut in half by asphalt.

Even the new visitor building—two single-story blocks, one of glass and one of timber, under an undulating roof—is designed to fit unobtrusively into the landscape.

"If people don't remember it when they go home, but they remember the monument, that

won't be a bad thing," said architect Stephen Quinlan.

Inside, the exhibition seeks to show the monument's prehistoric creators to be sophisticated people, who raised pigs and hunted, gathered from far and wide for feasts—and built this remarkable, mysterious monument.

The face of one 5,000-year-old local resident has been re-

constructed from his skull by Oscar Nilsson, a forensic sculptor. He had good teeth and handsome features, in a shaggy, prehistoric kind of way.

"The women here at English Heritage are very fond of him," Nilsson said.

All this comes at a price.

The 27 million pound (\$44 million) renovation was funded partly through donations and partly by a levy on profits of Britain's national lottery.

The admission charge has almost doubled, from 8 pounds (\$13) to 14.90 pounds (\$24) for an adult. There is the requisite modern cafeteria and a large gift shop, where visitors can buy Stonehenge jam, chocolate, baseball caps, mouse pads and fridge magnets, as well as "Stonehenge Rocks" T-shirts.

The commercialism is isolated from the monument, which retains its eternal mystery.

Stonehenge was built in three phases between 3000 B.C. and 1600 B.C. Archaeologists agree it was a temple—but to what gods, and exactly how it was used, remains unclear.

Recent research suggests the site may have started as a giant burial ground for elite families. Archaeologists have found the remains of dozens of cremated bodies from about 3000 B.C. whose location was marked by bluestones.

Stones for the second Stonehenge, much of which still stands, were brought from up to 175 miles (280 kilometers) away. Construction continued for centuries, and the site may have been a temple for Druid worship, a giant astronomical calendar or a place of healing.

Evidence suggests large crowds gathered at Stonehenge for the summer and winter solstices, a tradition that continues today. Thousands of self-styled Druids, pagans and New Age revelers are due to gather for the winter solstice on Saturday, the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere.

Senior curator Sara Lunt said there are still major discoveries to be made—more than half the site remains unexcavated. But the original purpose of Stonehenge may remain a mystery.

"We know there was a big idea" behind Stonehenge and other stone circles built across the British Isles in the Neolithic period, she said. But "what the spiritual dimension of this idea is—that is the key, and that is what we can't get."

"We still have no way of replicating a Neolithic mind. We don't have the Neolithic voice in our ear.

"We don't know the heart of it—and that's a good thing. That gives people work to do."

Hollywood movie star sisters' 90-year feud ends

PARIS (AP)—Joan Fontaine's 1942 Oscar was so much more than a trophy. Competing head-to-head with her older, more famous sister—"Gone With the Wind" star Olivia de Havilland—it finally was proof the 24-year-old rising actress had exacted the ultimate revenge on her sibling in a fierce rivalry that dated back to childhood.

Here's a look at their sibling rivalry—and others just as bitter—that have played out well beyond the family dinner table:

HANDS OFF MY OSCAR

Fontaine, who won her Academy Award for Alfred Hitchcock's "Suspicion," died Sunday at 96.

For years, she was a struggling B-movie star watching the success of her older sister, who played Maid Marian alongside Errol Flynn's Robin Hood and Melanie Hamilton in an Oscar-nominated performance in "Gone with the Wind." But an Oscar eluded de Havilland until 1947, when she won for "To Each His Own."

Fontaine said she tried to make amends by congratulating de Havilland as she walked off stage. De Havilland snubbed her while holding the

trophy, an infamous moment captured by a photographer.

The warring sisters' fame grew as they made history as the only siblings in Hollywood to win Oscars for a leading role. The two would snipe at each other in public, competing bitterly for the same roles and reportedly even for the same men.

"My sister was born a lion and I a tiger, and in the laws of the jungle, they were never friends," Fontaine told an interviewer.

The final straw came in 1975 when their mother died. Fontaine criticized de Havilland for not notifying her of the death, while de Havilland countered that Fontaine was too busy to attend the memorial. The two reportedly didn't speak again.

Fontaine once told the Hollywood Reporter "I married first, won the Oscar before Olivia did, and if I die first, she'll undoubtedly be livid because I beat her to it."

But in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday, the 97-year-old de Havilland, who lives in Paris, proved her sister wrong, saying she was "shocked and saddened to learn" of her death.



AP

This combination of file photos shows actress Joan Fontaine, right, in New York, on c, while her sister Olivia de Havilland, left, holding the Oscar she won for best actress at the Academy Awards in Hollywood on March 23, 1950.

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

In Britain, brothers David and Ed Miliband ran head-to-head for Britain's Labour Party leadership contest in 2010. Ed, the younger brother and underdog, won and the ensuing controversy caused his older brother to quit British politics. Former British Foreign Secretary David Miliband now lives in New York and works as the president of a non-governmental organization.

DEAR ABBY

Pauline Friedman Phillips, who as Dear Abby dispensed snappy, sometimes saucy advice on love, marriage and meddling mothers-in-law to millions of newspaper readers around the world, competed for decades with the advice column of Ann Landers, written by her twin sister, Esther Friedman Lederer. Their relationship was stormy in their early adult years but they later became close.

CHALK AND CHEESE

The glamorous Collins sis-

ters, Joan and Jackie, have a highly publicized, turbulent relationship amid an age-old rivalry. Jackie, the popular fiction writer, and Joan, star of the TV series "Dynasty," publicly deny any feelings of competition yet they rarely appear together. "Both are ambitious high achievers and unspoken rivals, yet different as chalk and cheese," said Leslie Bricusse, a composer who knew them both. But Joan still has Jackie to thank for a 1978 boost to her then-flailing acting career when she starred in "The Stud"—a movie adapted from her sister's novel.

DON'T LOOK BACK IN ANGER

Brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher of the British rock band Oasis have had a famously competitive, even brawling relationship. The group disbanded in 2009 because of the brothers' deteriorating relationship after a backstage fight before a festival show. This week, Noel Gallagher reportedly turned down a \$36.9 million offer to reunite with his brother for an Oasis anniversary tour.

Ferrell and McKay: A partnership forged on jokes

NEW YORK (AP)—To reach the level of absurdity that Will Ferrell and Adam McKay regularly attain, they have to be particularly open-minded. They need to be willing to throw a joke about a female whale's anatomy against the wall, and see if it sticks.

It's a process of casual brainstorming, constant rewriting, endless improvisation and audience testing that leads them to ridiculous places. Their "Step Brothers," which McKay calls the most "free-form" film they've made, culminated at, of all places, something called the Catalina Wine Mixer, with Ferrell singing Andrea Bocelli's "Por Ti Volare."

"Sometimes I'll say to Ferrell: Can you believe we ended that movie in an opera song?" says McKay.

"We backed ourselves into such a corner," says Ferrell. "It was the only way."

"Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," the first movie they made together coming out of "Saturday Night Live," famously arrived at Burgundy's inane translation of San Diego as meaning "a whale's vagina." Actually speaking the line caused Ferrell to uncharacteristically unravel.

"A professional crew. It's a night shoot," says Ferrell. "And it all came crashing down on me: We've convinced a bonded company to put these lines on film."

The sequel, "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," opening Wednesday, comes nine years after the original, a movie that helped launch a decade of comedies and boosted the careers of Judd Apatow (a producer on "Anchorman"), Paul



This Dec. 6, 2013 photo shows actor Will Ferrell, left, and director Adam McKay from the film "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" posing in New York.

Rudd and Steve Carell. Since then, Ferrell has starred in every movie McKay has directed, including the NASCAR comedy "Talladega Nights" and the white-collar crime satire "The Other Guys."

Their collaboration, begun in the writing rooms of "SNL," has developed into one of the most rock-solid, long-running partnerships in comedy. They together created the production company Gary Sanchez, choosing the funniest way they could think of for an intern to answer the phone. (I Love Jesus productions was also an option.) They even developed a backstory of Sanchez as a former NFL place-kicker from Paraguay who was getting into the movie business.

"They have something that's very special that's almost unprecedented in comedy films," says Apatow, also a producer on the sequel. "It reminds me of

Bill Murray and Harold Ramis. When you're around it, you feel how rare it is. They've made five movies and they've all classics."

"I like working with them because they remind me I'm supposed to have fun," adds Apatow.

In a recent interview over lunch, McKay and Ferrell reflected on their process of constant trial and continual refinement. It usually begins with tossing around ideas at Ferrell's California guesthouse or their Gary Sanchez offices.

"We're big believers in sitting for two, three, four hours," says McKay. "We'll write down 50 ideas, and two will be useable."

The two first found themselves in sync at "SNL," where McKay rose to head writer after just one year as a writer. The first sketch they wrote together was about the deterioration of a

morning news show when the teleprompters go down, leading to bloody tribalism.

"Anchorman 2" takes their chauvinist, sexist newsman into the 1980s and the dawn of 24/7 cable news. But it could have taken many different forms.

At first, they planned to tour a musical version in theaters before shooting the film. They considered setting a sequel in space ("We never figured out how or why," says Ferrell), or having Ron become friends with Manuel Noriega in Panama. They flirted with the Iranian hostage crisis ("How do we make THAT funny?" says Ferrell), as well as having Burgundy accidentally start a war.

"We'll try anything," says McKay.

Just as "Talladega Nights" hid a commentary on Bush-era red states, the premise of "Anchorman 2" includes a parody

of today's media. Burgundy has the epiphany that TV news can tell people not what they need to hear, but what they want to hear—history as shaped by an idiot.

The extensive promotion of the film has included Ferrell, in character, anchoring local news in North Dakota and appearing on ESPN. Ferrell is surprised that some may be missing the satire: "The news itself is kind of blissfully endorsing all the things that we're doing."

More mixing and matching followed in the improvisation-heavy shoot, where McKay routinely shouts new lines at his actors. There were so many jokes that McKay at one point considered making the film in two parts, a la "Kill Bill," and even tested part one with an audience. Each joke has at least one alternative, so McKay plans to release a DVD version with the

some 400 jokes each swapped out for another.

A tug of war with the Motion Picture Association of America led to some snips, like in the scene when Burgundy smokes crack on the air. They wince a little at losing a big musical scene (it included a song "Gay for a Day"), but say if test audiences don't respond to a scene, they're ruthless in editing.

That's not to say what's in the film isn't plenty outlandish. It includes a section where Burgundy goes blind, a shark named Doby ("Nothing heightens chaos more than a berserk wild animal right in the middle," says McKay), and exclamations like "By the bedpan of Gene Rayburn!"

More than anything, they revel in these unpredictable, nonsensical left-hand turns that break the movie's already high degree of absurdity.

"Nothing is more enjoyable for me than when I'm watching a movie or a TV show and there's that sense that anything can happen," says McKay. "It is the most fun feeling in the world."

Ferrell and McKay, who also run the comedy website Funny Or Die, have both done projects separate of the other, of course. They're currently finalizing plans for a prison comedy, "Get Hard," starring Ferrell and Kevin Hart that McKay will produce.

McKay clearly has some interest in expanding his directing work in other directions, but he also, in the course of the interview, suggests to Ferrell that they do another big character like Burgundy, "like 8 on the volume scale."

"I selfishly want to only work with Adam and have him only work with me," says Ferrell. "Yet at the same time, I want other actors, other people to see. I don't know if people really, truly know how good Adam McKay is."

Says McKay: "People always say, 'Are you going to do other movies?' Yeah, eventually. But there's just never been a moment where us doing movies together hasn't been fun as hell and totally satisfying."

Author hired to write sequel to Larsson series

STOCKHOLM (AP)—The Swedish publisher of the best-selling "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" trilogy said Tuesday it has hired an author to write a sequel to the series by Stieg Larsson, who died in 2004.

Norstedts said it signed a contract with David Lagercrantz, the author of "I am Zlatan," a biography of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the captain of Sweden's soccer team, to write a new novel about journalist Mikael Blomqvist and hacker Lisbeth Salander that is scheduled to be published in August 2015.

Larsson's trilogy about a

darker side of Sweden, including murder mysteries, sex trafficking scandals and a secret government unit, has been a huge international success, with more than 75 million books sold in 50 countries.

The head of publishing at Norstedts, Eva Gedin, told The Associated Press the new book will be an original work that includes nothing from the fourth novel in the series that Larsson began writing but hadn't finished when he died at age 50.

"Obviously it will build on the previous books," she said. "Blomqvist and Salander will

be included and many of the other characters."

Gedin said the decision to continue the series had been taken after careful considerations and long discussions with Larsson's father and brother, Erland and Joakim Larsson, who own the rights to his work.

Lagercrantz said he was really skeptical about the idea of writing a fourth book in the series at first, but that changed when he reread Larsson's novels. "I increasingly felt that these characters, Blomqvist and Salander, deserved a longer life," he told The Associated Press.

He wouldn't reveal anything about the plot, but said: "In the times we live in, where we are monitored by American authorities like the NSA, a hacker like Lisbeth Salander is needed."

"We will meet her again in all her complex splendor," he said.

Larsson's longtime partner, Eva Gabrielsson, who has been in a legal dispute with Erland and Joakim over the rights to the trilogy, told daily newspaper Aftonbladet that she finds it "tasteless" to try to make more money out of something that is already so successful. "I guess I

think it's greedy. It's already a multimillion industry," she was quoted as saying.

Gabrielsson and Larsson were a couple for more than 30 years, but they never married. Larsson didn't leave a will, so only his brother and father inherited the rights to his works.

Since Larsson's death the whereabouts of his unfinished fourth manuscript have been a mystery. Gabrielsson first said she had a laptop containing the manuscript, but later said she does not have it and does not want to see any other book in the Millennium series published.

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ANCHORMAN 2 [CC,DV] (PG) (410 PM) 710 PM
HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG [CC,DV] (NR) 730 PM
HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) (300 PM) 700 PM
HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG 3D [CC,DV] (NR) (330 PM)
FROZEN [CC,DV] (PG) 745 PM
FROZEN 3D [CC,DV] (PG) (515 PM)
DELIVERY MAN [CC,DV] (PG-13) (430 PM) 720 PM
HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE [CC,DV] (PG-13) (345 PM) 715 PM
THOR: THE DARK WORLD [CC,DV] (PG-13) (400 PM)
THOR: THE DARK WORLD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) 705 PM

Times For 12/19 www.REGALmovies.com

Nirvana, Kiss, Peter Gabriel headed to Rock Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—Nirvana, Kiss and Peter Gabriel will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next year.

The Rock Hall announced Tuesday that Hall and Oates, Linda Ronstadt and Cat Stevens also will be inducted April 10 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Artists are eligible for induction 25 years after their first release. Nirvana received a nomination in its first year of eligibility and next year the band will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its debut, "Bleach." The induction comes 20 years after frontman Kurt Cobain committed suicide at age 27.

"For once ... I'm speechless. From the basements, to the dingy clubs, to the broken down vans, to ... the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," former Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl, now the frontman for Foo Fighters, said in a statement Tuesday. "I'd like to thank the committee not only for this induction, but also for recognizing Nirvana for what we were: pure rock and roll."

"Thank you most of all to Kurt Cobain," bassist Krist Novoselic said in the statement issued on behalf of Nirvana. "And to everyone who's kept rock music going strong for 60 years and counting."

This year also marked first-time nominations for Hall and Oates, Gabriel and Ronstadt. Kiss and Stevens, who have been nominated in the past, made the cut after being absent from the list for several years.



This 1991 file photo shows the band Nirvana, from left, Krist Novoselic, Dave Grohl, and Kurt Cobain.

Peter Criss, Kiss' original drummer and vocalist, said the band changed rock forever by raising the bar for live performances.

"We were four guys from New York City who brought Barnum & Bailey into rock and roll," he told The Associated Press. Criss last toured with the band in 2003 and hopes to be asked to perform with the other three founding members

at the induction ceremony at New York's Barclays Center. The Hall of Fame is in Cleveland, but the location of the induction ceremony varies from year to year.

"We wanted the makeup and the costumes and the bombs," Criss said. "Our idea was to give people a hell of a lot more for their money. We changed music by insisting you can't go up there and

just sing anymore. That's going to stand forever."

Singer/guitarist Paul Stanley, who with bassist Gene Simmons has anchored Kiss' changing lineup for 40 years, said the band never cared when critics slammed them.

"The spirit of rock and roll for me has always meant following the paths I choose, regardless of what my critics or my peers think," he said. "For 40 years, Kiss has built an army that apologizes to no one, and I'm honored to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame knowing we have remained true to ourselves and our fans."

Also at the ceremony, The Rolling Stones' manager Andrew Loog Oldham and the late Beatles manager Brian Epstein, will receive Ahmet Ertegun awards, a non-performing honor. And Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band will get the award for musical excellence.

N.W.A., one of the 16 nominees announced in October, did not make the cut. The iconic rap group includes Dr. Dre, who has launched successful solo albums and is the producer behind Eminem, 50 Cent and Kendrick Lamar.

More than 700 Rock Hall voters determined the 2014 class.

The 29th annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be open to the public. Tickets go on sale next month.

The event will air on HBO in May.

Kiss frontman Paul Stanley has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—It's legacy time for Kiss frontman and co-founder Paul Stanley.

Not only are Stanley and fellow band members being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, he has a memoir scheduled to come out less than two

weeks after the ceremony.

HarperOne announced Tuesday that Stanley's "Face the Music: A Life Exposed" is coming out April 22.

The publisher says the book will feature rare photographs and candid memories about his

wild life with the mega-selling band.

Earlier Tuesday the Rock Hall announced that Kiss, Linda Ronstadt and Peter Gabriel were among the performers voted in. The ceremony is scheduled for April 10.

Warhol portrait jury wraps 1st day of deliberation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury deciding the ownership of an Andy Warhol portrait of Farrah Fawcett concluded its first full day of deliberations on Tuesday.

The panel of six men and six women is considering whether to allow Ryan O'Neal to keep the portrait or if it belongs to the University of Texas at Austin.

Jurors received the case on Monday afternoon and have completed nearly five-and-a-half hours of deliberations.

The university is suing O'Neal to gain possession of the portrait, which it says should have been included in Fawcett's gift of all her artwork to the school. Another nearly identical portrait was given to the university and hangs in its art museum.

O'Neal, however, says the artwork was a gift from Warhol and he should be allowed to keep it.

Opening statements began in the case on Nov. 25 and jurors heard from several witnesses who were close to Fawcett throughout her life.

DC buys JFK 'Superman' art, gives to Boston museum

NEW YORK (AP)—Comic book publisher DC Entertainment says it has acquired the art drawn by artist Al Plastino for a 1964 comic featuring President John F. Kennedy and Superman and will donate it to the JFK library in Boston.

Last month, Heritage Auctions

withdrew original artwork for the 1964 comic book from an auction. Plastino had found it on display at New York Comic Con in October.

Plastino drew the comic and had thought "Superman's Mission for President Kennedy" in "Superman" No. 170 was donated to

Boston's Kennedy library decades ago. Heritage says the initial seller of the art had bought it in 1993.

Plastino died late last month at age 91. His wife says she welcomes Monday's move by DC, noting the art was very special to him and their family.



This photo released by courtesy of the Blanton Museum of Art shows Andy Warhol's painting of "Farrah Fawcett," 1980.

Husband's peace and quiet makes wife feel discontent

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I married "Larry" five years ago, and he is good to me. I have two beautiful grandchildren who are my daughter's. If I don't see them once a week I miss them. (They are 2 1/2 and 16 months old.) Larry doesn't miss the babies or want to see them once a week. Sometimes when they come to the house, he doesn't speak to them or play with them. He says he wants his peace and quiet at the house.



Dear Abby

Larry's great with the babies in public. He is also good about playing with our friends' kids. But he doesn't want the grandchildren to spend the night here because he doesn't want his sleep disturbed. (He can get up at 4 a.m. to go fishing, though.)

He has two sons and doesn't mind if he hears from them only twice a year. He's the type of person who says what he thinks without caring if it's rude or hurtful. If you don't like him, he can live without being friends with you. No one comes to visit us at our home.

I miss my family, my daughter and the babies. Do I leave?

UNHAPPY IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

DEAR UNHAPPY: If you are the one making all the concessions, make a list of Larry's good qualities, and then make one that includes how he refuses to compromise, makes you feel lonely and isolated, and says things without regard to whether they are hurtful to others. Place them side by side, and you will have your answer.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After recently meeting my older brother's male roommate, a few things occurred that make me wonder if my brother is gay. Whether he is or not doesn't matter to me, and I don't feel it's my business to find out unless he chooses to share it with me.

Although I am a strong supporter of the gay and lesbian community, my concern is that because we were raised in an extremely conservative home, my brother may think I still hold those beliefs and may be reluctant to confide in me. I don't want to make a wrong assumption about his sexuality, nor do I want to force him out of the closet before he's ready. How can I let him know I support him, no matter what, without crossing the line?

LIBERAL GIRL IN TEXAS

DEAR LIBERAL GIRL: There are ways to communicate your feelings to your brother without being direct. If you are still in school, consider joining a gay/straight alliance. If you see something in the news about a gay issue, call it to his attention and say something positive. Or, if you think that might make him uncomfortable, how about giving him a hug and telling him how lucky you feel to have him as a brother and that you will love him forever? (Come to think of it, a straight sibling might also appreciate hearing it.)

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Does being invited to an engagement party "guarantee" you will also be invited to the wedding? LOOKING AHEAD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR LOOKING AHEAD: Yes, it does. And for that not to happen is a HUGE breach of etiquette on the part of whoever is hosting the wedding, whether it's the bride's parents or the couple themselves.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Dec. 2, 2013:

TOP SONGS

1. "Timber (feat. Ke\$ha)", Pitbull
2. "The Monster (feat. Rihanna)", Eminem
3. "Say Something", Christina Aguilera, A Great Big World
4. "Counting Stars", OneRepublic
5. "Royals", Lorde
6. "Story of My Life", One Direction
7. "Demons", Imagine Dragons
8. "Let Her Go", Passenger
9. "Roar", Katy Perry
10. "Wake Me Up", Avicii

TOP ALBUMS

1. "Midnight Memories", One Direction
2. "The Marshall Mathers LP2", Eminem
3. "Songs for the Philippines", Various Artists
4. "Nothing Was the Same", Drake
5. "Frozen", Various Artists
6. "Pure Heroine", Lorde
7. "PTXmas", Pentatonix
8. "Wrapped In Red", Kelly Clarkson
9. "Christmas", Michael Bublé
10. "Common Courtesy", A Day to Remember

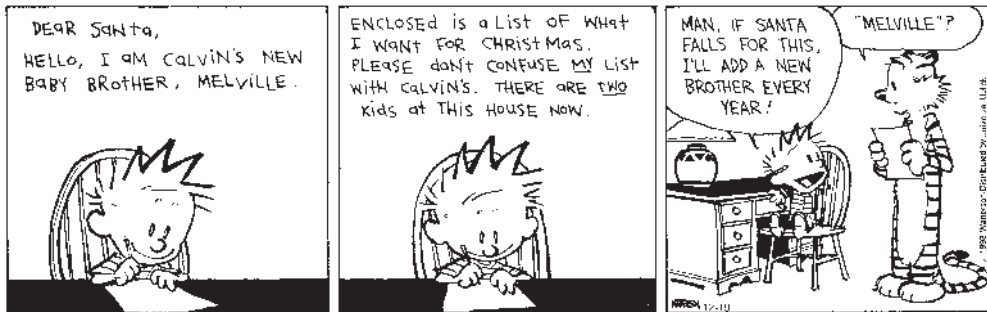
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

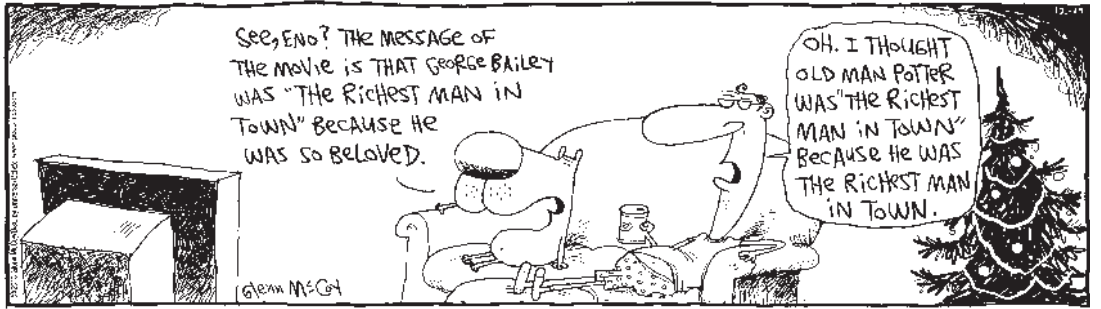
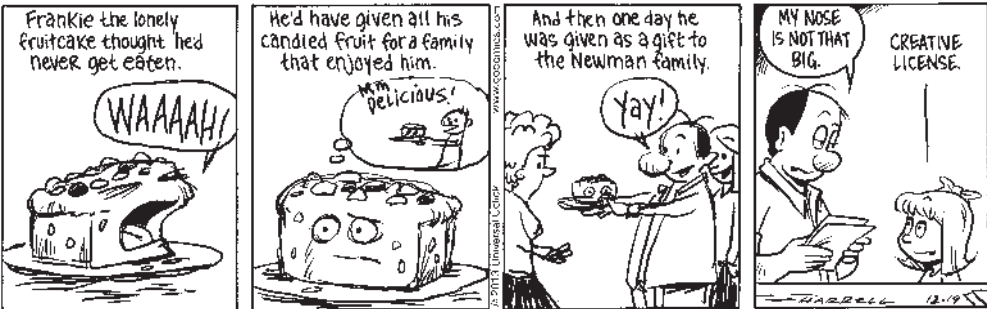


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Chore closet item

4 Ice-cream flavor, for short

8 Blogger's bit

12 "The Greatest"

13 Easy stride

14 Wings

15 Aged, as paper

17 Coffee

18 Late singer

19 Crime lab "client"

21 Fair

24 Sleep phenom

25 Despondent

26 Talk on and on

28 Bangkok money

32 Do as you're told

34 Quarterback

36 Rani's raiment

37 Big bothers

DOWN

2 Bullring bravo

3 Rolled in waves

4 Overcast

5 "Please explain"

6 Cartel

7 Fragrant wood

8 Sleepwear

9 Royal Norwegian name

10 Rescue

11 Rip

16 Chaney of old films

20 Society newcomer

21 Rorschach picture

22 Timber wolf

23 Have a meal

27 Cattrall or Basinger

29 "... be thy name"

30 Jog

31 Unuttered "alas"

33 Sang Swiss-style

35 Do lawnwork

38 Pouch

40 Kitchen gadget

43 Cohort of Bugs and Elmer

45 Earlier

46 "... with a banjo on my —"

47 Inquisitive

48 Other-wise

49 Staff

53 Michele of "Glee"

54 Before

55 Aykroyd or Marino

Solution time: 25 mins.

OFF	TAPS	BEEF
VIA	OPAL	LAVA
CSG	PEDOMETER	CR
RHEUM	BOA	
SOUL	OCHER	
PEDESTAL	HERO	
ITIT	EPID	ANT
CRST	PEDIGREE	
REHAB	LORE	
PRO	EMOTE	
PEDIATRIC	LEA	
AKIN	TART	INS
YEGG	ONES	ODE

Yesterday's answer 12-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marla Sokoloff, 33; Jake Gyllenhaal, 33; Alyssa Milano, 41; Jennifer Beals, 50.

Happy Birthday: Put more into the partnerships you form. Both personal and professional relationships can help you improve your status and your reputation. Speak with passion and from the heart and you will capture attention and gain support for whatever you want to pursue. Travel and education will play a role in helping you advance and opening up your options for future endeavors. Your numbers are 9, 15, 26, 28, 32, 46, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Problems at home will develop if you are overly emotional. Try to maintain your equilibrium. Temper tantrums due to added stress will surface, taking a toll on the relationships you have with friends and family. Keep busy and you'll avoid trouble. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Industry parties or getting together with clients or peers will result in a different perspective on and greater knowledge about how to make your work relationships more effective; however, refrain from sharing personal information. An emotional relationship will improve if you offer romance. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be creative when it comes to your financial concerns. A job you take on will be a learning experience that will lead to new ways of raising your earning potential. Recognizing what you do well will help you explore new possibilities. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let moodiness take over. Embrace what's being offered instead of pushing someone

away who just wants to help. Show good will and generosity and you will be surprised by the response you receive. Be mindful of those you love. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do the unexpected. Believe in your abilities and head in a direction that entices you. Taking an aggressive approach won't be well received by everyone, but standing up for your rights will end up being to your benefit. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Participate in organized events that are geared toward helping others. Your generosity will be welcomed by outsiders but criticized by someone who expects your undivided attention. Don't fold under pressure. Benevolence will bring high returns. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Learning, sharing your experiences, and discussing future plans that can help you advance should be your priority. Problems at home can be expected if someone expects too much from you. Make it clear what you will tolerate and what you will not. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Love and romance should be high on your list. Taking time to go out with someone special and enjoy an interest you both share will bring you closer together. A unique offering will put you in a dominant position. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Decorate or move things around to better accommodate your lifestyle and plans for the festive season. A change will brighten your outlook and impress someone you care about. Actions speak louder than words. Take care of personal paperwork. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid unpredictable situations. Step back and focus on what you can do for the people you love most. Engage in home improvements and bringing people together. A relationship will improve if you keep a promise you made. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Learn from someone with more experience, but don't let anyone put unreasonable demands on you. Showing your intelligence and speaking up when you don't understand or agree will be necessary if you want to gain respect and personal confidence. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Enjoying social events and taking part in charitable organizations will open up opportunities to expand your interests and your friendships. Shopping will lead to great buys. Love is in the stars and giving someone special a peaceful evening will be appreciated. ★★★★★

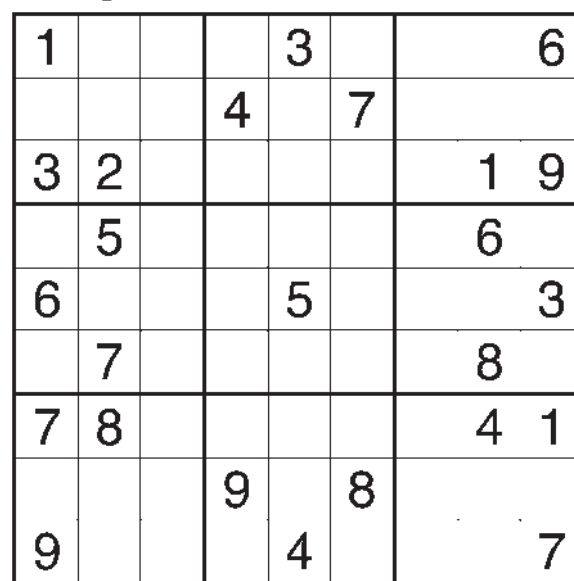
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

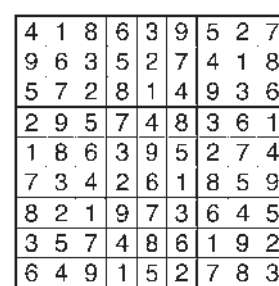


Difficulty Level ★★

12/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

12/19

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

A DAY OFF FROM SCHOOL

Solution: 7 letters



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Baby-sit, Bake, Bike, Bowl, Camp, Canoe, Chores, Clean, Concert, Craft, Dances, Disney, Excursion, Family, Food, Friends, Fundraise, Games, Gathering, Help, Hikes, History, Homework, Lake, Laundry, Lazy, Lego, Mall, Movies, Music, Organize, Paint, Pamper, Poem, Reading, Relax, Rest, Rinks, Sail, Shop, Sing, Skate, Sleep, Sports, Study, Treats, Trip, Visit, Writing, Zoo

Yesterday's Answer: Morality

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 35, 36, 37 or 38, call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaljclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 03-2013

Opening date: December 17, 2013 **Closing date: January 3, 2014**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) Accountant-I (Saipan)
(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I (Tinian)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, January 3, 2014.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA Human Resources by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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Executive Director

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Technical knowledge of Quickbooks Accounting software
Understand banking operations and knowledge of ACH network for direct deposit payroll processing and FICA transmittals
Knowledge of CNMI, and US Federal taxes including compliance and form preparation of, but not limited to, Form 500, Quarterly withholding taxes, payroll taxes, etc.
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Warriors whip Pelicans 104-93 in Iguodala's return

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry had 28 points and 12 assists, David Lee added 21 points and 17 rebounds and the Golden State Warriors beat the short-handed New Orleans Pelicans 104-93 on Tuesday night in Andre Iguodala's long-awaited return.

Iguodala finished with two points and two assists in 17 minutes after missing the previous 12 games with a right hamstring injury. The Warriors led by 10 points in the first quarter, 18 at halftime and 26 late in the third quarter.

Golden State never trailed.

The Pelicans played without injured starters Anthony Davis (broken left hand) and Tyreke Evans (sprained left ankle). Ryan Anderson had 21 points and six rebounds and Jason Smith scored 12 for New Orleans, which has lost its first two games of a five-game trip.

The Warriors outshot the Pelicans 45.1 to 37.5 percent and outrebounded them 58 to 44 to control the game—for the most part—from start to finish. New Orleans made a brief run in the fourth quarter against Golden State's backups before the starters returned and restored order.

The Warriors went 5-7 after Iguodala injured his hamstring Nov. 22, losing three of its last four games. They had especially struggled on defense, though the problems extended beyond Iguodala's absence.

Warriors coach Mark Jackson even called out his players for a lack of effort after a loss at Phoenix on Sunday, saying "I am finding that the guys in the suit and tie want it more than the guys in uniform."

After a string of slow starts during its recent slide, Golden State opened the game against New Orleans with the kind of heart and hustle Jackson has wanted from his team.

The Warriors dominated at both ends of the floor in a near-flawless first quarter. About the only blemish in the period—or the game, for that matter—came when Harrison Barnes suffered a left eye lid abrasion and was poked in the eye inadvertently by Lou Amundson going for a rebound. He returned a few minutes later.

The Pelicans played mostly on the perimeter and got nothing going offensively. The misses gave the Warriors several fast-break opportunities, and they took



From left, Golden State Warriors' Andrew Bogut, David Lee, and Stephen Curry watch from the bench during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013, in Oakland, Calif.

advantage of them throughout.

Iguodala punctuated the fast start when he finished an alley-oop from Curry late in the second quarter for his only basket, sending most of the announced sellout crowd of 19,596 roaring to its feet. Two possessions later, Curry followed with a layup through traffic to give Golden State a 57-39 lead at the half.

The Warriors went ahead by 26 points late in the third quarter, and Iguodala nearly pulled off one of the highlights of the season during the run: He dribbled to his right, faked a behind-the-back pass, bounced the ball through the legs, then cuffed it with his right hand and tried to dunk over Smith

- but missed off the back iron.

Iguodala was 1-for-4 shooting. Klay Thompson scored 16 points and Andrew Bogut added eight points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors.

The only rally New Orleans put together came against the bottom of the Warriors' bench. The Pelicans sliced Golden State's lead to 93-80 with 6:02 remaining before Jackson put most of his starters back in to regain control.

Trail Blazers 119, Cavaliers 116

In Cleveland, Damian Lillard made a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 0.4 seconds remaining, lifting Portland to the road win.

Lillard had a career-high eight

3-pointers while scoring 36 points. The 2013 NBA Rookie of the Year also had a fadeaway jumper as time expired to give Portland a 111-109 overtime victory over Detroit on Sunday.

Portland (22-4) has the best record in the NBA and is 11-0 against the Eastern Conference. The Blazers have won five straight and are 12-2 on the road.

Kyrie Irving's bid for a tying 3-pointer bounced off the back of the rim at the buzzer. Irving and Dion Waiters scored 25 points apiece for Cleveland.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 26 points and 15 rebounds for Portland.

Thunder 105, Nuggets 93

In Denver, Kevin Durant scored 30

points, powering the Thunder to their seventh consecutive victory.

Durant had 30 or more points in a game for the 12th time this season, most in the NBA. He is averaging a league-high 28.6 points.

Russell Westbrook had 21 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists for the Thunder. Serge Ibaka added 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Denver had won 10 of 13. J.J. Hickson had 20 points and 14 rebounds, but the Nuggets dropped to 0-2 this season against Oklahoma City. Ty Lawson added 17 points and 13 assists.

Lakers 96, Grizzlies 92

In Memphis, Tenn., Kobe Bryant scored 21 points in his sixth game of the season, and the Lakers closed out a four-game road trip with a victory.

Pau Gasol added 21 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who were coming off a 114-100 loss at Atlanta on Monday night. Nick Young had 18 points, and Jodie Meeks finished with 13.

Zach Randolph had 18 points and a season-high 16 rebounds for Memphis. The Grizzlies played without Mike Conley, who sat out after bruising his left thigh in Sunday's loss to Minnesota.

The Grizzlies led 69-67 in the fourth quarter before the Lakers went on a 17-4 run.

Bryant played 32 minutes, matching his most action since returning from his torn left Achilles' tendon. He was 9 for 18 from the field, both season highs, despite running the offense most of the night.

Bobcats 95, Kings 87

In Charlotte, N.C., Kemba Walker scored 24 points, helping Charlotte snap a three-game losing streak.

Gerald Henderson added 20 points and reserve Ramon Sessions scored 16 for the Bobcats, who went 8 for 17 from 3-point range. Walker also had five assists in his 10th game with at least 20 points.

DeMarcus Cousins had 30 points and 17 rebounds for Sacramento, which shot 37.5 percent from the field. The Kings have dropped three of four.

Kings forward Rudy Gay scored four points on 1-of-6 shooting in his worst game since he was acquired in a seven-player trade with Toronto on Dec. 9. He departed with 5:23 left in the third quarter due to right knee stiffness.

Saban: 'There were no talks' with Texas



TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—Alabama coach Nick Saban and the foot-

ball team are moving on.

Saban has put to rest the speculation that he would replace Mack Brown at Texas by striking a new deal with Alabama.

For the third-ranked Crimson Tide, the focus is on getting over the loss to Auburn and trying to finish the season strong in the Jan. 2 Sugar Bowl against No. 11 Oklahoma.

Saban had said Friday night after agreeing to a new contract reportedly worth about \$7 million a year that he planned to retire at Alabama.

He said "there were no talks" between his representatives and Texas and pointed to comments on ESPN that he "never considered going to Texas."

"I think I've already made a reac-

tion to that," Saban said. "Don't you watch ESPN? Didn't you see what they put down across the bottom line. That's my reaction to it.

"I don't have any more reactions to it. I think it's kind of over so why do we want to talk about that? We look forward. I'm looking forward. I made a commitment to our players that are here and I'm happy to be committed to them and I want them to make the same kind of commitment to the program and to their future success."

Brown announced his resignation at Texas on Saturday.

Several Texas regents and a former regent were involved in a meeting with Saban's agent last January to gauge the coach's interest in coming to Texas. Saban found the best way to quash that talk: Re-upping with the Tide.

Receiver Kevin Norwood never doubted it.

"I went home for the break or whatever, and everybody was basically talking about it," Norwood said. "And I was like, 'Coach Saban is not going anywhere.' And whatever social media was saying, whatever was happening after that, I pretty much ignored it."

Alabama (11-1) returned to the practice field on Tuesday for the first time since the Iron Bowl.

The game was tied until Chris Davis returned a missed field goal 109 yards for a touchdown on the final play to effectively end Alabama's bid for a third straight national championship.

Now, the team is gearing up for a bowl trip that would be a prize for most teams, but could be viewed as a disappointment for the Tide.

"We're fired up playing Oklahoma," defensive end Jeffery Pagan said. "It's not for a national championship or anything, but we're going to go

into it like it is.

"We're going to try to finish this season as strong as possible."

Left tackle Cyrus Kouandjio said Saban brought up the 2008 season when the Tide fell to Florida in the SEC championship game and to Utah in the Sugar Bowl.

"He was like we shouldn't let this loss bring us down to the point where we just keep hang-dogging and keep our heads down going into the game and lose that game, too," Kouandjio said.

On the field, Saban said guard Anthony Steen will miss the bowl game after having shoulder surgery.

Off the field, the coach had more to celebrate than even his new contract. His son, Nicholas, and daughter-in-law had a baby on Sunday.

The sometimes gruff Saban lit up talking about the experience that got him to the hospital in the wee hours.

"To have a healthy baby and a healthy mother and someone that

beautiful come into your family is really something that you have to count your blessings on," he said.

"They actually had a rocking chair over there so I was kind of happy rocking that baby a little bit. Since then, I haven't been able to go back.

"I kind of miss the little bugger if you want to know the truth about it."

Former Southern California and Tennessee coach Lane Kiffin, a one-time rival, has been visiting with Tide coaches this week in Tuscaloosa. It's a common practice for Alabama—even Oklahoma's staff has come to town—and Saban said he's not sure why that would cause any stir.

"Lane is a really good offensive coach, and I've always had a tremendous amount of respect for him," Saban said. "Just to come in and brainstorm a little bit just some professional ideas with our guys, I think, is a real positive thing. And I don't know why there's any reaction to it. I'm really quite surprised."

Kickoff rules have made returners restless



ENGLEWOOD, Colo.

(AP)—Trindon Holliday stands just 5-foot-5 and might tip the scales at 170 pounds if he wolfs down a big breakfast. Still, he figures he knows exactly how those big, beefy baseball sluggers must feel drawing intentional walks.

Holliday, the Denver Broncos' speedy kick returner, is flustered that he doesn't get the chance to showcase his skills all that much on kickoff returns, and he's not alone.

"You feel like it's time for you to spark your team and you get so anxious and you see the ball go over your head again and again and you get frustrated," said Holliday.

So, when the ball does land in his hands, even if it's very deep in the end zone, even if the wiser thing to do is take a knee, he wants desperately to bring it out.

"It might be the only one you get all day," Holliday said.

Holliday has six special teams return touchdowns in 29 career games, including playoffs, one every 4.8 games, which ranks him first in the league since the 1970 merger. But he hasn't scored since a 105-yard kickoff return against Philadelphia in September, a career-long drought of eight games.

Restless returners are as much a part of the NFL nowadays as the aerial fireworks show that light up the scoreboards every week.

"I don't like taking a knee because I'm a defense guy," said Chiefs returner Quintin Demps, a safety. "So, I'm probably mad because it means they scored, and if they scored a touchdown, I want to score. Yeah, it gets frustrating sometimes. We're all competitors. We want the ball in our



Denver Broncos wide receiver Trindon Holliday (11) is tripped up by San Diego Chargers wide receiver Seyi Ajirotutu (16) on a kick-off return in the second quarter of an NFL football game, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013, in Denver.

hands and we want to make a play."

It's not always up to the kick returner. Sometimes his coach or a teammate is the one giving him the green or the red light.

Sometimes it doesn't work out and the returner is smothered before he can reach the 20-yard line. The elite ones, though, can still change a game.

It just doesn't happen as often as it used to.

For the first time in NFL history, more than half of all kickoffs could end up as touchbacks this season, three

years after the league moved the kickoff up from the 30-yard line to the 35 to reduce the number of returns and, therefore, the number of concussions.

The league says its studies show head injuries on special teams plays have gone down as a result of the change and the data shows a drastic rise in the number of footballs flying out of the back of the end zone and returners taking a knee rather than bringing it out.

According to STATS:

■ The season is tracking at 1,285 returns, which would be the lowest since

the expansion to 32 teams in 2002. Not surprisingly, 2011 (1,375) and '12 (1,395) have been the next two lowest. Prior to that, 2009 had the lowest number of returns, at 2,004.

■ The touchback percentage is 49.4 percent. There's never been a season where more than half the kicks are touchbacks. Prior to '11, the highest percentage was in 1993, when 27 percent of kickoffs were downed.

■ The average kickoff return is now 23.5 yards. Over 2011 and '12, that number was 22.2.

However, a big return just isn't what it used to be.

■ The average starting position on kickoffs is now the 22-yard line. It was 26.8 in 2010, the year before the rule change.

For many teams, the risk/reward ratio for 2 extra yards just isn't worth it.

For teams with a dynamic returner, it is, but Chicago's Devin Hester, who has 19 return TDs in 124 career games, said he doesn't ever grow impatient and bring one out that he shouldn't.

"It's up to the coaches at the end of the day," Hester said. "When I bring those out 8, 9 deep, Coach will tell me beforehand, 'No matter how deep it is, bring it out.' So, it's really not up to me."

Sometimes, it's actually up to the opponent.

"It's pretty frustrating because you are back there for pretty much nothing, unless they want you to return. It's all up to them," Giants kick returner Jerrel Jernigan said.

"You have to control yourself. If you get antsy and try to bring one out that is eight yards deep, the kickoff coverage is already down there and it's probably going to get you inside the 15."

Twenty-one of the top 25 worst overall average starting field positions since 1991 have come after the 2011 rule change on kickoffs, according to STATS, including eight this season.

Vikings rookie Cordarrelle Patterson, who leads the league with a 33.3-yard kickoff return average and has two TD returns, said he's not bothered by kickoffs sailing over his head.

"Nah, it makes me feel good," he insisted. "It makes me feel like they're scared of me or they respect me back there."

And when they do end up in his hands, he's not about to take a knee.

Yankees hit with \$28 million luxury tax



NEW YORK

(AP)—The New York Yankees were hit with a \$28 million luxury tax bill, pushing their total past the \$250 million mark since the penalty began in 2003.

According to Major League Baseball calculations sent to teams Tuesday, the Los Angeles Dodgers were the only other team that exceeded the tax threshold this year and must pay \$11.4 million. Boston finished just under for the second straight year, coming in \$225,666 shy of the \$178 million mark.

Figures include average annual values of contracts for players on 40-man rosters, earned bonuses and escalators, adjustments for cash in trades and \$10.8 million per team in benefits.

Because the Yankees have been over the tax threshold at least four consecutive times, they pay at a 50 percent rate on the overage, and their \$28,113,945 bill was second only to their \$34.1 million payment following the 2005 season. The Yankees are responsible for \$252.7 million of the \$285.1 million in tax paid by all clubs over the past 11 years.

Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said he hopes to get under the threshold next year, when it rises to \$189 million. That would reset the team's tax rate to 17.5 percent for 2015 and get the Yankees some revenue-sharing refunds.

But following agreements Tuesday on a \$2 million, one-year deal with second baseman Brian Roberts and a \$7 million, two-year contract with left-

Source: Orioles, Balfour agree to 2-year deal

BALTIMORE (AP)—Two weeks after trading their closer to Oakland, the Baltimore Orioles agreed to a two-year, \$15 million contract with former Athletics closer Grant Balfour on Tuesday, according to a person familiar with the deal.

Balfour's contract will not be completed until the right-hander passes a physical, the person told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the transaction had not been announced by the Orioles.

Balfour fills the vacancy left by the trade of closer Jim Johnson, who was dealt to Oakland because Baltimore

didn't want to pay him about \$10 million a season. Johnson had 50 saves in each of the past two seasons but was in line for a huge raise.

"It's really about the allocation of resources and to have a competitive team," Orioles executive vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette said at the time. "You have to have proper balance."

Balfour is the first significant addition this offseason by the Orioles, who went 85-77 in 2013 but came up short in their bid to reach the postseason for a second straight year.

Balfour, who turns 36 on Dec. 30,

went 1-3 with 38 saves in 41 opportunities with Oakland last season. He made \$4.5 million with the Athletics in 2013. He had a 2.59 ERA and 72 strikeouts, with 27 walks in 62 2-3 innings.

In 2012, he had 24 saves in 26 chances. In 10 seasons with Minnesota, Milwaukee, Tampa Bay and the Athletics, Balfour is 28-17 with 72 saves and a 3.27 ERA.

The addition of Balfour means the Orioles won't have to try Tommy Hunter or Darren O'Day at closer. Both likely will be tried in a setup or situational role.

hander Matt Thornton, the Yankees are at \$177.7 million for 15 players next year, when benefits are likely to total between \$11 million and \$12 million. Their only hope to get below the threshold appears to be if an arbitrator upholds most of Alex Rodriguez's 211-game suspension, relieving the team of a large percentage of the third baseman's \$25 million salary.

Tax money is used to fund player benefits and MLB's Industry Growth Fund.

The Yankees finished with the highest regular payroll for the 15th consecutive year, winding up at a record \$237,018,889. The Dodgers, in their first full season under new ownership, were just \$146,647 behind after nearly

doubling spending from \$129.1 million.

Regular payrolls include salaries, earned bonuses and pro-rated shares of signing bonuses.

Los Angeles had a higher payroll for the tax: \$243 million to New York's \$234 million. But because the Dodgers didn't exceed the threshold in 2012, they pay at a 17.5 percent rate and owe \$11,415,959. They would pay at a 30 percent rate if they exceed the threshold next year.

Checks to the commissioner's office are due by Jan. 21.

Houston, which lost more than 100 games for the third straight season, had a payroll less than one-eighth that of the Yankees and Dodgers. The Astros' finished at \$29.3 million, the lowest total in

the major leagues since the 2008 Florida Marlins and just \$1.3 million more than Rodriguez made with the Yankees.

After trading many of their stars following an unsuccessful first season in their new downtown ballpark, the Marlins lowered their payroll to \$42.3 million from \$89.9 million in 2012. Minnesota dropped from \$101 million to \$76 million.

Toronto boosted spending from \$92 million to nearly \$126 million.

The average salary increased 7.1 percent, to \$3,326,645 from \$3,105,093, according to MLB's calculations, the steepest rise since 2006. The players' association has not yet released its final figures for this year.

Hardball dollars

Final 2013 payroll for the 30 major league baseball teams reached \$3.3 billion for the season.

2013 team payroll, in millions

N.Y. Yankees	\$237.0
L.A. Dodgers	236.9
Boston	176.5
Philadelphia	166.2
Detroit	154.7
L.A. Angels	143.7
San Francisco	141.3
Texas	137.2
Toronto	125.9
Washington	120.9
St. Louis	119.6
Chi. White Sox	116.7
Cincinnati	116.1
Baltimore	103.3
Chicago Cubs	100.9
Atlanta	95.3
N.Y. Mets	95.1
Milwaukee	92.7
Seattle	91.1
Arizona	90.2
Cleveland	89.0
Kansas City	86.6
Colorado	78.8
Minnesota	76.1
Pittsburgh	74.6
San Diego	74.2
Oakland	71.1
Tampa Bay	64.6
Miami	42.3
Houston	29.3

Shooting victim's family sues Aaron Hernandez

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez has been sued by the family of a man he's accused of killing while police investigate the death of another person on the periphery of that case.

The wrongful-death lawsuit was filed Monday in Superior Court in New Bedford, Mass., according to The Herald-News, based in nearby Fall River.

Hernandez has pleaded not guilty to murder in the June 17 shooting death of Odin Lloyd, a semi-professional football player who was dating the sister of Her-



In this Oct. 9, 2013 file photo, former New England Patriots NFL football player Aaron Hernandez attends a pretrial court hearing in Fall River, Mass.

lion. The Lloyd family also seeks a court order to keep the Patriots from paying Hernandez more than \$3 million it believes he's owed from his contract.

A hearing is scheduled Thursday on those two restraining orders to preserve Hernandez's assets.

The filing notes another claim

is being made against Hernandez in a Florida lawsuit by a friend, Alexander Bradley, who alleges Hernandez shot him in the face after they argued outside a Miami club in February.

Meanwhile, police are investigating the death of a Connecticut woman with ties to Hernandez.

Tabitha Perry, who lived in Hernandez's hometown, Bristol, was found unconscious and not breathing inside a Southington home. She died Monday.

In June, Perry survived a car accident that killed Hernandez's friend Thaddeus Singleton III. Police say she and Singleton, who was married to Hernandez's

cousin, had a child together.

The state medical examiner's office said Tuesday that Perry's death required further study, and police said they were waiting for the results of toxicology tests. They said there were no suspicious circumstances found at the time of the investigation.

Perry is one of several people with ties to Hernandez who have died in the past six months.

An uncle, Robert Valentine, died in a moped crash in August. Singleton died June 30, when the car he and Perry were in went off a road, went airborne and became lodged inside a country club building. Police have ruled the crashes accidents.

Investigators have said Singleton introduced Hernandez to two men who also face charges in Lloyd's death.

Bengals' Huber scheduled for surgery on broken jaw

CINCINNATI (AP)—Kevin Huber is scheduled for surgery on Friday for his broken jaw, a season-ending injury that left the Bengals looking for another punter and holder to help them through their playoff surge.

Huber got hurt during a 30-20 loss in Pittsburgh on Sunday night. Terence Garvin blocked him during Antonio Brown's 67-yard punt return for a touchdown, hitting Huber's chin with the top of his helmet.

The Bengals (9-5) held tryouts for five punters on Tuesday and signed Shawn Powell. The second-year punter was released by Buffalo on Oct. 4 after rough games against Baltimore and Cleveland.

Powell also will hold on field

goal attempts and extra points by kicker Mike Nugent.

"Kevin has done a great job in his tenure here," Powell said. "Hopefully I can get to do a little bit of what he's done to help the team continue on its path of success."

Huber went on injured reserve Tuesday, ending his streak of 81 consecutive games played, the longest on the roster. The Bengals' medical staff expects Huber to make a full recovery and return next season.

"There should be no future ramifications whatsoever," coach Marvin Lewis said.

Players had Tuesday off, but Huber visited Paul Brown Stadium and briefly watched the tryouts. On his way out, he told The

Associated Press that he broke his jaw at the chin. He also has a crack in one neck vertebra that's expected to heal without problem.

Huber grew up in Cincinnati, attended the University of Cincinnati and was drafted by the Bengals in the fifth round in 2009. He's been a vital part of the Bengals' success with his long punts.

Last season, he set club records for net and gross average. He ranks eighth in the NFL this season with a net average of 40.5 yards.

"We're replacing a kid who's been a fine player for us," Lewis said. "And unquestioned, he's a great person, a kid that we've spent a great deal of time with, with him growing up here, going to UC, us coaching him at the Se-

nior Bowl.

"He's done a great job since we've drafted him. So it's a shame that he misses out on the rest of the season."

Lewis declined to express an opinion about Garvin's block on Huber, which wasn't penalized but is likely to draw a fine from the league.

"I think there's been enough talk about it," Lewis said. "There's nothing I can do that will affect it any differently now, so we just need to move on."

The Bengals chose Powell for their home game on Sunday against Minnesota (4-9-1) in part because of his experience at directional kicking - punting the ball to a specific area of the field. Powell did it with Buffalo, which

gave him an edge with Cincinnati.

"I was lucky," he said. "I don't want to be on the outside looking in. I like to be on the inside."

Powell punted and held for kicks at Florida State. He replaced Brian Moorman in Buffalo a few weeks into the 2012 season under coach Chan Gailey.

Powell felt his job was in jeopardy after he shanked punts during a 23-20 win over Baltimore on Sept. 29. The Bills released him a day after their 37-24 loss to the Browns. Cleveland's Travis Benjamin returned seven punts for a club-record 179 yards, including a 79-yard touchdown.

Death sparks calls for Philippines school boxing ban

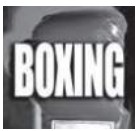
MANILA, Philippines—A 16-year-old Filipino athlete died after a week in coma following a boxing match, triggering calls for the sport to be banned in schools, an official said Monday.

Jonas Garcia, a high school athlete, suffered internal bleeding after a boxing match in a regional sports competition and

died on Sunday.

Boxing is hugely popular in the Philippines, which has produced many international champions, including Manny Pacquiao, once regarded as the world's best pound-for-pound fighter.

The death has sparked calls for the suspension of boxing



from national school sports competitions, said Tonisito Umali, assistant secretary of the government education department.

"Requests are being made for the suspension of boxing. Other regions are also saying they will not continue boxing," he told AFP.

"We will not force them," he

grams for the youth should continue.

"The answer isn't to cancel boxing. This is where we get fighters for the Olympics. We just have to take the proper precautions," he said in a television interview.

Pacquiao, who has won world championships in eight weight divisions, started as a teenage amateur boxer while living on the streets. (AFP)

3-PEAT

From Page 28

21-18. In the men's A doubles, Glenn Blautjens and Sam Jones teamed up in beating Ferdie Arago and Jerry Hibi, 21-12, 21-17.

For the third men's doubles game (Class B), SBC leaned on Gary Bandoja and Oh Im Boh, who topped Aries Cordero and Jeff Riman, 21-12, 21-15. Then in the last match (women's BC doubles) of the first half of the

finals, Francisco and Alma Ortega partnered anew to dominate Lot Bartolome and Vilma Reyes, 21-3, 21-7.

With Day 1 of the title duel in the books, SBC went on to take a 14-1 lead, going into last Sunday's last five tiffs and the only way Shirley's could have spoiled the former's three-peat celebration was to sweep the remaining matches or get 15 points. Teams are given 3 points for a win in two games and 2 for a three-game victory.

TRIBUTE

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nized by the Refaluwasch Golf Association, family, friends, and golfing buddies to celebrate Wabol and his contribution to golf and the sporting community.

Known as "Mr. Unorthodox" in the golfing circle because of his "wrong grips," he proved many wrong with his

Benavente wins RGA Ace of Aces

achievements.

Wabol was a one-time club champion of Marianas Country Club, a regular CNMI golf representative in off-island regional competitions, a coach for many of our young baseball enthusiasts, an MVP with two-time soft-pitch champions DOE/PSS, and, so far, the only local golfer to have won the Tournament of Champions twice.

then ended in the third game of the day, as SBC's June and Jongmin Lee won their men's C doubles tiff against Lance Bartolome and Jasper Van Der Maas after only two games. The eventual champion earned another two-game victory in the women's C finals with Nicole Malasarte and Kuen Hee Han defeating Joanna Olivos and Vilma Reyes before handing the mixed BC doubles triumph to Shirley's. Shirley's went on to edge SBC in Day 2, 8-7, but it was not enough to

overhaul the latter's lead in the opening day of the title match.

SBC and Shirley's arranged their title encounter after finishing in the Top 2 of the round-robin elimination. SBC wrapped up the preliminary round with an 86-34 record, while Shirley's notched a 73-47 slate, just three wins ahead of eventual third place finisher Community Badminton Club (70-50). CBC routed last year's finalist Golden Racquets in the consolation match, 28-2.

Meanwhile, other RGA members who joined the weekend tournament were Uly Kapileo (71), Dave Apatang (72), Frank Flores (72), Joe Saures (73), Tom Tebuteb (73), Tony Rogolifo (74), Harry Nakamura (75), Nick Guerrero (76), Ray Tigilau (76), Tars Olopai (78), Manny Mangarero (82), and Joe Limes (94). (Saipan Tribune)

88 JOIN

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Club Jingle Bell Fun Run was supported by IT&E, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Smile Marianas, McDonald's, National Office Supply, Coca-Cola/Powerade, Pacific Islands Club, Team PDI, Salty's Grill & Café, Dolphin Wholesale, Bridge Capital, LLC, Law Office of S. Joshua Berger, and Hardt Eye Clinic.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	12	14	.462	—
Toronto	9	13	.409	1
Brooklyn	9	15	.375	2
New York	7	17	.292	4
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	5
Southeast Division				
Miami	18	6	.750	—
Atlanta	13	12	.520	5½
Charlotte	11	14	.440	7½
Washington	10	13	.435	7½
Orlando	8	17	.320	10½
Central Division				
Indiana	20	4	.833	—
Detroit	12	14	.462	9
Chicago	9	14	.391	10½
Cleveland	9	15	.375	11
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	15
WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division				
San Antonio	19	5	.792	—
Houston	16	9	.640	3½
Dallas	14	10	.583	5
New Orleans	11	12	.478	7½
Memphis	10	14	.417	9
Northwest Division				
Portland	22	4	.846	—
Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	1
Denver	14	10	.583	7
Minnesota	12	13	.480	9½
Utah	6	21	.222	16½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	17	9	.654	—
Phoenix	14	9	.609	1½
Golden State	14	12	.538	3
L.A. Lakers	12	13	.480	4½
Sacramento	7	16	.304	8½

2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters/Open Basketball League Awardees

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Blue Haus players and supporters pose with the championship trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League early this month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Blue Haus won, 88-79. Also in the photo are UFO officials and James Lee, back row, fifth right, of league sponsor MARPAC.



Proa's Lerio Pagarao, third right, receives the third place trophy in the open division.



MARPAC's James Lee, seventh left, receives the plaque of appreciation given to his company for sponsoring the UFO league.



The Hoopaholics players and coaches pose with their runner-up trophy,



KB Market players and supporters pose with their championship trophies.



Players of Armatech pose with their runner-up trophy.



Mythical Team members (with trophies) Bruce Berline, Edsel Mendoza, Jun Tabora, and Ferdie Tobias. Missing in the photo is Ernie Moises.



Carlos Ballesteros, fourth right, and Darwin Barbo, second left, receive the Sportsmanship Award for Pacific Islands Club.



Open division Finals MVP Leo Galarse, eighth from left, poses with other individual awardees and UFO members and officials.



Laguna/Erika's Erlan Lansang, third left, receives the third place trophy in the masters division from UFO president Annamae Adaza, second left.



Warriors whip
Pelicans 104-
93 in Iguodala's
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Saipan Tribune Sports



Kickoff rules have
made returners
restless
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

3-peat for Saipan Badminton Club

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Badminton Club extended its reign in the Northern Marianas Badminton Association's season-ending competition after ruling the 7th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

SBC notched a 21-9 victory over Shirley's Badminton Club in the finals to bag its third straight championship in the annual tournament. The three-time champion won seven of the 10 matches in the title showdown to defend its title.

They zeroed in on the championship last Saturday after dropping only one game in the first five matches set for Day 1 of the finals. Dianne Francisco and Alma Ortega kicked off SBC's campaign in Day 1 of the finals and rallied past Toshilo Obata

and Windy Fernandez in the women's B doubles. The SBC duo lost the opening game, 16-21, but stole the win after prevailing in the last two, 21-12, 22-20.



After opening the title match with a tough three-game win, SBC kept its momentum and earned victories via sweeps in the last four matches. Joel Ortega and Young Sang gave the three-time champion its first sweep after downing Chris Hilario and Tony in the men's BC doubles, 21-18, 22-20.

See 3-PEAT on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Badminton Club's Oh Im Bog makes a backhand return, while teammate In Sook Heo looks on during an elimination round game against Shirley's Badminton Club in the Traders Insurance tournament early this year at the TSL Sports Complex.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners head out to the course of yesterday's 7th Annual Saipan Swim Club Jingle Bell Fun Run.

88 join SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Youth runner Seiya Eda led 87 other finishers in yesterday's 7th Annual Saipan Swim Club Jingle Bell Fun Run.

Eda completed the 4.5-kilometer race in 17:51, beating the time (19:40) of last year's overall champion Steven Pixley. The Saipan Southern High School student also took the top honors in the male student division of the race that brought runners to as far as the World War II Tank

along the Quartermaster Road and back to the start/finish line at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion across the Oleai Sports Complex.

Eda won the boys student division against Saipan International School's Rintaro Miyawaki, who also broke the 20-minute barrier with his 19:47. Saipan Community School's Haruya Eda rounded out the Top 3 in the boys student division



after timing in at 20:14.

Haruya placed fourth overall and was behind Ariel Lansangan, the first male adult finisher, who crossed the finish line at 19:55.

In the girls student division, Conatu Kaga led the field after completing the race around the 20-minute mark, just a few seconds behind first adult female finisher Amy Sletten. The victory was Kaga's second straight and she managed

to eclipse her winning time last year (21:56). Sletten bagged her first Jingle Bell Run win, edging former winners Mamiko Oshima-Berger and Pipit Ball. Oshima-Berger ruled the 2010 race after submitting 19:30, while Ball topped the 2011 and 2012 competitions.

The top finishers in the students and adults divisions received in-kind prizes from tournament sponsors, while all finishers got T-shirts. This year's 7th Annual Saipan Swim Club Jingle Bell Fun Run will be held on Saturday, December 21, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. See 88 JOIN on Page 26

Tribute to Jess Golf Tournament on Sat.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jess Wabol is seen here watching his ball rolls during a local tournament in 2009. The Refaluwasch Golfers Association will hold a tournament in honor of its late official this Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The "Tribute to Jess" Golf Tournament will take place this Saturday on the west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort.



The event that will be held in honor of CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jess Wabol, who passed away in October this year, has a 6am showtime and a 7am shotgun start. Tournament fee is \$75 and format is double-peoria. Banquet and award presentation will immediately follow at the driving range area.

The tribute is being organized by the Refaluwasch Golfers Association. See TRIBUTE on Page 26